Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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CONTENTS

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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

Group Threatens To Kill Americans in Territories *[AFP]* 1
Sources Say PA Behind Threat *[AL-MAJD 25 Sep]* 1
Conditional U.S. Aid Offer Seen as 'Provocation' *[Jericho VOP]* 1
Minister Criticizes Aid Offer *[Jericho VOP]* 1
'Arafat Briefs Foreign Envoys on Taba Talks *[Jericho VOP]* 2
Taba 'Negotiator' Assails 'Dismal' Accord *[IRNA]* 2
Minister Calls Taba Agreement 'Important Step' *[Jericho VOP]* 2
PLO Representative Assesses Taba Negotiations *[Mainz TV]* 5
'Arafat Adviser on Unresolved Issues With Israel *[Jericho VOP]* 6
Islamic Jihad Activists Said Arrested in Gaza *[Jerusalem Radio]* 7

Arab-Israeli Talks

Taba Talks Yield Agreement on Expanding Self-Rule 7
Kanafani on Stumbling Blocks in Talks *[Jericho VOP]* 7
Peres Details Parts of Agreement *[MENA]* 8
Signing of Agreement 'Delayed' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 8
Talks Halted for Sabbath *[Jerusalem Radio]* 8
'Arafat Leaves for Cairo; Peres for Elat *[MENA]* 9
PA Negotiators Stress Prisoners Issue *[Jerusalem TV]* 9
Disagreement Includes Hebron, Prisoners *[Jericho VOP]* 10
Peres Says PA To Get 85% of Hebron *[Jerusalem TV]* 10
Sides Said Insisting on Signing Accord *[MENA]* 11
'Arafat, Peres Resume Talks *[MENA]* 11
Peres Statements on 'Complicated' Talks *[Jericho VOP]* 12
Abu-Rudaynah on Talks, 'Arafat Visit to Amman *[Jericho VOP]* 12
Palestinian Officials on Talks, Prisoners *[Jericho VOP]* 13
Kanafani Says Police Movement Main Snag *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 14
'Arafat Walks Out of Talks 'Shouting' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 14
Kanafani Says Negotiations Deadlocked *[Jericho VOP]* 14
Kanafani Notes 'Door Is Not Closed' *[Cairo Radio]* 15
Consultations Held To Contain Crisis *[MENA]* 15
'Decisive' Peres-Arafat Meeting in Progress *[Jerusalem Radio]* 16
Agreement Reportedly To Be Initialed *[Jerusalem Radio]* 16
Peres, 'Arafat To Initial Agreement *[Jerusalem Radio]* 16
Quray', Savir Expected To Sign Accord *[Cairo Radio]* 17
'Arafat Gives Address at Signing Ceremony *[London MBC TV]* 17
Peres Speaks at Ceremony *[Jerusalem TV]* 17
Further Details on Agreement Reported *[Jerusalem Radio]* 18
Palestinian Sources Explain Pre-Signing Dispute *[MENA]* 18
Accord Implementation To Start in 2 Weeks *[Jericho VOP]* 19

PA's 'Abd-Rabbuh Explains Taba Agreement *[MENA]* 19
Quray' on 'Independent Palestinian State' *[Jericho VOP]* 19
Quray' Details Parts of Agreement *[MENA]* 20
'Abd-al-Shafi: Agreement 'Step Forward' *[MENA]* 21
Peres on Details of Accord, Prisoners *[Jerusalem Radio]* 21
PA's 'Urayqat on Agreement, Next Moves *[Cairo Radio]* 21
'Urayqat: Prisoners To Be Freed in 3 Batches *[Jericho VOP]* 22

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Dembri Says 100 Observers To Monitor Elections *[Paris International]* 23
OAU Delegation Arrives To Monitor Elections *[Algiers Radio]* 23
Citizens Residing in France Allowed To Vote *[Algiers Radio]* 23
HAMAS Presidential Candidate Interviewed *[Algiers Radio]* 23
Zeroual To Release FIS Leaders 'Soon' *[Kuwait Radio]* 27
Security Forces Eliminate 41 'Terrorists' *[Algiers Radio]* 27
Chirac Criticized for Viewing Loans as 'Favor' *[Algiers TV]* 27
Statement Assails 'Harmful' Press Report *[Algiers Radio]* 27
Russian Official Delivers Message to Dembri *[Algiers Radio]* 27
Commentary Expresses 'Total Contempt' for Iran *[Algiers TV]* 28

Egypt

'Arafat Arrives in Cairo To Brief Mubarak *[MENA]* 28
'Arafat, Mubarak Make Statements *[MENA]* 28
Mubarak Receives Clinton Phone Call on Peace Talks *[MENA]* 29
Newspaper Praises Taba Talks, Mubarak Role *[MENA]* 29
Egyptian Authorities To Move Border Palestinians *[MENA]* 29
Palestinians Head for Jordan *[MENA]* 30
Musa, Delegation Leave for UN General Assembly *[MENA]* 30
U.S. Ambassador Remarks After Musa Meeting Cited *[MENA]* 30
Jordan's al-Kabariti, Musa Hold Further Talks *[Amman Radio]* 30
NPUG Urges Halt of Normalization With Israel *[AL-AHALI 20 Sep]* 30
Islamic Group Member Arrested by Croatian Security *[MENA]* 31
Group Threatens Croatia *[AFP]* 31
14 MB Members Await Trial; Leaflet Investigated *[AL-'ARABI 18 Sep]* 32
MB Spokesman on Elections, Government by Shari'ah *[AL-WAFD 13 Sep]* 32
'Terrorists' Ordered To Transfer Operations *[MENA]* 33

Libya

Only 7 Palestinians Accept Offer of Return *[AFP]* 34
Union Official on Illegal 'Surplus Labor Force' *[JANA]* 34
Aide Cited on Lockerbie Proposal, Palestinians *[London AL-HAYAH 22 Sep]* 34
Egyptian Minister Denies BBC Story on Factory *[JANA]* 35
'London Radio' Report on al-Rabitah Criticized *[JANA]* 35
Tripoli TV Comments on PLO-Israel Agreement 36
Tripoli on 'Disturbing' Reports of Arab Disarmament *[JANA]* 36
Paper Warns Rome of Extremist Stance on Mines *[JANA]* 36

Mauritania

Algerian Prime Minister Arrives for Visit *[Nouakchott Radio]* 36

Morocco

Diplomat Restates Official Policy on Sahara *[MAP]* 37
Industrialists Invited To Exhibit at Tehran Fair *[MAP]* 38
Damascus To Sign Judicial Cooperation Agreement *[Rabat Radio]* 38

Sudan

SDUP Dismisses UNESCO Call for Meeting *[MENA]* 38
Opposition Figure Defies al-Bashir's 'Threat' *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 38
President al-Bashir Leaves for PRC *[Omdurman Radio]* 39
22 Student Demonstrators Released by Government *[AFP]* 39

Tunisia

Foreign Minister Holds Talks in Washington *[Tunis Radio]* 40

Western Sahara

UN Council Suspends MINURSO Mandate *[MAP]* 40
Polisario Denies Secret Talks With Morocco *[Radio of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic]* 40
President Urges Germany To Help Save Peace Plan *[Algiers Radio]* 40

ARABIAN PENINSULA

GCC Officials Discuss Economic Cooperation *[SPA]* 42

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd, 'Arafat Hold Telephone Conversation *[SPA]* 42
King Fahd, Mubarak Discuss Relations *[SPA]* 42

United Arab Emirates

'Sources' Comment on Islands Dispute With Iran *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 22 Sep]* . 42

Yemen

IAEA Announces Country's 'Full' Membership *[Sanaa Radio]* 42
Official Discusses French Firm Winning Oil Deal *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 22 Sep]* . 43

IRAQ

British, Not CIA Said Linked to Kamil Defection *[Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI 22 Sep]* 44
Presidency Referendum Called 'Democratic Stand' *[INA]* 46
Opposition Claims Education Minister Arrested *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 22 Sep]* 46
'Shortsighted People' Urged To Reconsider Stand *[INA]* 47
Kurd Delegation Meets With Syrian Officials *[Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan]* 47

ISRAEL

Officials, Others View Signing of Taba Accord 48
Rabin Comments on Taba Agreement *[Jerusalem Radio]* 48
Further on Rabin Comments *[THE JERUSALEM POST 24 Sep]* 50
Peres on Taba, Oslo B Accord, Hebron *[Jerusalem Radio]* 55

Likud Seeks Debate Before Signing *[Jerusalem Radio]* 57
Sharon Vows To Recoup Holy Sites *[Jerusalem Radio]* 57
Likud's Netanyahu Critical *[Jerusalem Radio]* 57
Opposition, Settlers, Others React *Jerusalem Radio* 59
Tensions Rising in West Bank in Wake of Taba 59
Demonstrators Arrested in Hebron *[Jericho TV]* 59
Rioting in Hebron Following Signing *[Jerusalem TV]* 60
Four Slightly Injured in Hebron Riots *[Jerusalem Radio]* 60
Three Slightly Injured in Nabulus Riots *[Jerusalem Radio]* 60
Nabulus Youth Reportedly Killed by IDF Fire *[Jerusalem Radio]* 60
Closure Imposed on West Bank *[HA'ARETZ 24 Sep]* 60
'Military Siege' on Jericho Lifted *[Jericho VOP]* 61
Security Forces Arrest Brother of 'Engineer' *[Jerusalem TV]* 61

JORDAN

Shots Fired on Hotel Housing Israeli Embassy *[AL-URDUN 23 Sep]* 62
'Arafat Arrives for Talks With Crown Prince *[Jericho VOP]* 62
Prince Hasan Welcomes 'Arafat *[Amman Radio]* 62
Paper Publishes Key Points of Taba Agreement *[JORDAN TIMES 25 Sep]* 62
Paper on Taba Accord, 'Important Step' *[AL-ASWAQ 25 Sep]* 63
Editorial Commends Taba Agreement *[AL-RA'Y 25 Sep]* 64
UN 'Rejected' PLO Request To Import Iraq Oil *[AL-RA'Y 25 Sep]* 64
Iraqi Trade Minister Reportedly Pays Secret Visit *[AL-URDUN 23 Sep]* 64
Al-Kabariti Defends Policy on Iraq, Other Areas *[MENA]* 65
Paper: Qatar Amir, Rabin Met 'Secretly' in Amman *[AL-MAJD 25 Sep]* 65

LEBANON

Buwayz Denies Country Will Accept Palestinians *[Beirut Radio]* 66
Decree Issued Regulating Palestinians' Entry *[Beirut Radio]* 66
Birri: Chamber Divided Over Presidential Term *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 67
Economy Minister Views Progress of Recovery *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 22 Sep]* 67

SYRIA

Al-Shar' Views Upcoming Meeting With Christopher *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 22 Sep]* 70
Foreign Minister Denies Plans for Peres Meeting *[WAKH]* 70
Papers: Taba Agreement Relinquishes Land, Identity *[Damascus Radio]* 70
Damascus Radio on Palestinian-Israeli Talks 71
Papers Comment on Settler Actions, Taba Talks *[Damascus Radio]* 72
Al-Shar' Returns Home From Arab League Meetings *[SANA]* 73

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Rabbani Addresses Pakistan Ties, Foreign Policy *[Kabul Radio]* 74
Rabbani Says Taleban Acts Against Independence *[Kabul Radio]* 74
Taleban Postpones Ultimatum on Rabbani 'Surrender' *[AFP]* 74
Government Forces Capture Ghowr, Advance to Herat *[Kabul Radio]* 75
Taleban Denies Loss of Ghowr *[IRNA]* 75
Taleban Attack Said Repulsed Southwest of Kabul *[AFP]* 76

India

Mukherjee, Official View U.S. Ties With Pakistan *[Delhi TV]* 76
Mukherjee Regrets U.S. Move on Arms to Pakistan *[Delhi Radio]* 77
Party Head Sees U.S. Move 'Abetting Terrorism' *[Delhi Radio]* 77
BJP Calls For Response to U.S. Arms to Pakistan *[Delhi Radio]* 78
Police Disperse Protesters Near U.S. Embassy *[AFP]* 78
Daily Assails U.S. for Lack of 'Even-Handedness' *[THE PIONEER 23 Sep]* 78
Maharashtra Said Ready To Renegotiate Enron Project *[Delhi Radio]* 79
Official on Efforts To Contact Kashmir Abductors *[AFP]* 79
Radio on Kashmir 'Infiltration Bid,' Hostages *[Delhi Radio]* 79
Finance Minister Says Economy 'Improving Steadily' *[Delhi Radio]* 80

Iran

Radio Views 'Arafat Agreement To Sign Taba Accord *[Tehran Radio]* 80
Officials Criticize Israel Over Plane Hijacking *[Tehran TV]* 80
'Radical' Paper Threatens Retaliation for Hijacking *[Jerusalem Radio]* 83
Norwegian Embassy Said Suspected for Drug Smuggling *[Tehran Radio]* 83
Cuban Envoy Meets With Larijani on U.S. Policies *[IRNA]* 83
Cuban Official Comments on 'Strategic' Ties *[IRNA]* 84
Foreign Ministry Criticizes Arab League Statement *[IRNA]* 84
Emami-Kashani on Defense Week, Hijacking, Bosnia *[Tehran Radio]* 84
Radio Reports on Second Sermon *[Tehran Radio]* 84
Radio Commentary Views Anniversary of Defense Week *[Tehran International]* 85
Khamene'i Pardons Prisoners on Eve of Defense Week *[Tehran TV]* 86
Rafsanjani Praises Army in Speech to Ground Forces *[IRNA]* 86
Further on Rafsanjani Remarks *[Tehran TV]* 86
IRNA Reports on Military Display for Defense Week 87
IRGC Commander on Deterrence as Military Priority *[Tehran Radio]* 87
Reportage on Defense Week Military Exercises 87
'Khaybar' Exercises Begin in Gulf *[IRNA]* 87
'Nasr-1' Military Exercises Begin *[IRNA]* 88
Radio Reports on 'Zafar' Exercise *[Tehran Radio]* 88
Amphibious Exercises Continue in Gulf *[IRNA]* 88
Armed Forces Complete Production of Advanced Tank *[IRNA]* 88
Presence of U.S. Fleet Said Source of 'Tension' *[Tehran TV]* 89
Rafsanjani Addresses Cabinet on Political Power *[Tehran TV]* 89
Habibi Details Rafsanjani Comments *[Tehran Radio]* 89

Pakistan

Bhutto Thanks Clinton for Brown Amendment Passage *[Islamabad Radio]* 90
Bhutto Praised for Passage of Brown Amendment *[Islamabad Radio]* 90
Brown Amendment Passage Said 'Clear Vindication' *[Islamabad Radio]* 90
Officials Welcome U.S. Move on Pressler Amendment *[Islamabad Radio]* 90

Palestinian Affairs

Group Threatens To Kill Americans in Territories

NC2309120795 Paris AFP in English 1159 GMT 23 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, Sept 23 (AFP) — A previously unknown Palestinian group threatened on Saturday [23 September] to kill Americans living in the autonomous Gaza Strip and West Bank in revenge for the detention of a prominent fundamentalist.

The group, calling itself the Students of Musa Abu-Marzuq, after a leading member of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) held in New York, made the threat in a statement sent to AFP.

In the statement entitled "Warning for every dirty American who lives in our beautiful country," the group vowed to turn the Gaza Strip and West Bank into another Lebanon, where foreigners were at risk in the 1980s during the war.

"You must know that Students of Musa Abu-Marzuq can abduct every American here in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank and we can shoot on every American easily," the statement said.

The group, which said it was not linked to Hamas, added: We ... warn you if your government doesn't liberate our leader, we will make you live in fright and fear here."

"Death for Americans," it concluded.

Abu-Marzuq, one of the main leaders of Hamas, was detained by the US authorities upon arrival at Kennedy airport, New York, two months ago and is wanted by Israel.

American nationals study or work in the Palestinian territories, especially with relief organisations such as the UN agency for Palestinian refugees UNRWA.

Sources Say PA Behind Threat

JN2509113095 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 25 Sep 95 p 1

["Exclusive report" from Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] Informed sources in the Palestinian Authority [PA] say that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has nothing to do with the statement issued in Gaza on 23 September threatening to kill U.S. nationals in the occupied Palestinian territories.

The sources say that the Palestinian security agencies in collusion with their Israeli counterparts are responsible for this statement in order to incite the U.S. Administration against the Hamas movement and against Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq, the head of its political bureau, particularly with the approach of Dr. Abu-Marzuq's trial, which will begin on 17 October.

These sources said that the PA head received assurances from Dennis Ross, coordinator of Middle East affairs in the U.S. State Department, that the U.S. Administration will not hand over Abu-Marzuq to Israeli authorities. This angered the Israelis, who began to think of ways to make the U.S. Administration change its position.

The sources said they do not rule out the possibility that this was one of the reasons the Israelis collaborated with the PA in issuing this statement under the name of the organization of the Students of Abu-Marzuq.

Hamas sources in Gaza denied having anything to do with this statement, affirming that Hamas' struggle is only against the Israeli occupation. The sources did not rule out that suspect quarters are behind this statement.

Conditional U.S. Aid Offer Seen as 'Provocation'

JN2309151695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 23 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian Ministry of Information has criticized the U.S. Congress decision to extend conditional financial aid to the Palestinian National Authority. In a statement released today, it said that this decision contravenes all norms and traditions. It said that these conditions constitute a provocation to the national sentiments of Palestinians and an interference in domestic Palestinian affairs.

The U.S. Congress stipulated that Palestinian establishments in Jerusalem be shut down and some articles in the Palestine National Charter rescinded.

The Ministry of Information statement stressed that the U.S. Congress' position deals a fresh blow to the peace process and encourages Israeli intransigence.

Minister Criticizes Aid Offer

JN2409143995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 24 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Housing Minister Dr. Zakariya al-Agha has criticized the decision by the U.S. Congress to tie aid to the Palestinian Authority to the closure of Palestinian offices and institutions operating in occupied Jerusalem and to the abrogation of the Palestinian National Charter provisions.

Dr. al-Agha said the National Authority has no offices in Jerusalem, and the Palestinian institutions and offices

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in Jerusalem were there before the Declaration of Principles was signed. He added: Therefore, this decision has no meaning.

'Arafat Briefs Foreign Envoys on Taba Talks

JN2309080695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 23 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat returned to the homeland last night from Taba where he held a week-long negotiations with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres on the implementation of the second phase of the Declaration of Principles.

Right after his return, President Yasir 'Arafat received the representatives of Jordan, Egypt, Morocco, Norway, Russia; the ambassador of Japan; the [European] Troika; and Terje Larsen, coordinator of UN activities with the Palestinian Authority. He briefed the envoys on the results of the negotiations and the obstacles to the signing of the agreement. He stressed the Palestinian determination to reach a balanced agreement.

Taba 'Negotiator' Assails 'Dismal' Accord

LD2309220395 Tehran IRNA in English 2146 GMT 23 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Athens, Sept. 23, IRNA — PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and the foreign minister of the Zionist regime Shim'on Peres are expected to sign the much-heralded but clearly dismal agreement on the expansion of Palestinian autonomy to the West Bank, tonight at the Egyptian red sea resort of Taba.

According to a Palestinian negotiator who took part in the talks leading up to the imminent agreement, 'Arafat practically succumbed to Israeli dictates and accepted limited Palestinian control in civilian fields and only within the confines of certain towns, villages and hamlets.

A dispatch to IRNA from al-Quds [Jerusalem] quoted a Palestinian negotiator, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, saying the impending agreement will virtually leave much of al-Khalil [Hebron], indeed the old town where the Ibrahimi Mosque is located, in Israeli hands. Moreover, the roads linking al-Khalil and affiliated villages will continue to be controlled and patrolled by occupation troops.

Describing the would-be agreement as "dismal" and "scandalous," the Palestinian negotiator, a land surveyor, said the Palestinian- controlled pockets will actually be, as 'Arafat himself complained recently, isolated cantons without territorial continuity. Aside from the manifest political flaws of the agreement, the Palestinian land expert argued that the daily life of significant sectors of Palestinians in the West Bank would actually get worse than it already is.

"The movement of individuals, goods, and services from one village to the other, even within the same town as in al-Khalil, would be immensely curtailed, even restricted, by the new security arrangements stipulated in the agreements.

"Meticulous security checks, including searches, personal frisking and long delays, as well as the erection of numerous Israeli and PNA [Palestinian National Authority] roadblocks and checkpoints will suffocate economic activities in the West Bank," said the Palestinian negotiator.

The bad omen of Taba talks is already felt in al-Khalil. Shopkeepers closed their shops early Saturday [23 September] morning in an expression of opposition to and indignation over the Taba agreement.

Moreover, the security situation in the city remains tense following intermittent clashes between Palestinian stone-hurling youths on the one hand and Israeli soldiers and settlers on the other. In light of the townpeople's obvious dissatisfaction with the agreement, it is only likely that tension in al-Khalil will grow bloodier and deadlier.

Minister Calls Taba Agreement 'Important Step'

JN2509074395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0510 GMT 25 Sep 95

[Telephone interview with Ahmad Quray', PA minister of economy, in Gaza, by Fathi al-Barqawi at the studio from the "New Day" feature — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Barqawi] Good morning, Brother Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'].

[Quray'] Good morning to you.

[Al-Barqawi] In your capacity as chief Palestinian negotiator, please give us a precise characterization of the agreement you signed yesterday, in no more than two sentences.

[Quray'] In spite of everything that will be said about this agreement, it is an important step to building a Palestinian homeland and setting up an independent Palestinian state. This is the substance of the agreement.

[Al-Barqawi] Because that is so, we want to talk about its details. Let us talk first about the redeployment of the Israeli army.

[Quray'] According to this agreement, there will be deployment, redeployment, or withdrawal. It is a withdrawal of the Israeli army forces from all Palestinian

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cities, villages, camps, and rural areas in the West Bank. This is an important achievement and a major step to building the Palestinian homeland and Israel's withdrawal from the rest of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

[Al-Barqawi] When will the redeployment take place?

[Quray'] It will begin 10 days after the signing of the agreement.

[Al-Barqawi] From where?

[Quray'] From the date of the agreement, which will be signed officially in Washington on 28 September.

[Al-Barqawi] I mean from what area?

[Quray'] The redeployment will begin after 10 October, God willing. The first units of the Israeli Defense Forces will begin to withdraw from cities and villages.

[Al-Barqawi] Which city first?

[Quray'] What?

[Al-Barqawi] Which city first?

[Quray'] It may begin in the north, moving to the south.

[Al-Barqawi] So it will be Janin.

[Quray'] Yes.

[Al-Barqawi] Let us move on to the issue of Hebron. Much has been said about this. We want you to clarify matters for our kinsmen in Hebron and all the Palestinians.

[Quray'] No solution can be satisfactory for Hebron except one that withdraws the last soldier and last settler from Hebron. However, the negotiating process, hard and fierce as it is, managed finally to reach an agreement that stipulates Israeli withdrawal from all of the city of Hebron and to make security arrangements in the Old Town area. We did our best, including brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and all the brothers. There were fierce attempts, and the situation was about to explode more than once on this point. But this point remained the only exceptional and temporary one that will end, just as occupation will end from all of the West Bank, God willing. All civilian powers will be handed over to us in Hebron, just like any other Palestinian city. There will be Palestinian national security forces, initially of about 400 soldiers, and this will also be increased. Thus, all of the arrangements that are in the other cities will also be applied to the city of Hebron. The al-'Amarah area will be evacuated and will be a center for the Palestinian national security forces to replace the occupation forces. The weak point, of course, is that few settlers will remain there and will be protected at this stage. It is a stage that we have to put up with in order to end the occupation, God willing.

[Al-Barqawi] What about water?

[Quray'] There were two issues. First, Palestinian water rights have been recognized. We have a document about this for the first time, and this is a recognition by Israel. The second issue is that arrangements were made regarding the use and distribution of water in the transitional stage by including more amounts of water to be used by Palestinians in the West Bank. Also, an additional 5 million cubic meters of waters will be used in the Gaza Strip. We agreed on the control and protection of water against pollution.

[Al-Barqawi] Then the conditions of the Palestinians in this field will be better.

[Quray'] Undoubtedly. These conditions will not be ideal, but they will be better.

[Al-Barqawi] There have been serious differences concerning electricity.

[Quray'] The differences continued. The electricity problem is still pending and was not solved by the agreement. We proposed to refer this subject to arbitration, but at the end it was agreed that the two sides record their different positions and that negotiations on electricity begin immediately after signing the agreement.

[Al-Barqawi] What about the maps, which took a great deal of time in the negotiations?

[Quray'] The maps are not ideal either, because the ideal map will include the Palestinian homeland. This map is a step. The area we agreed on is much larger than expected. The populated areas, which are about 30 to 31 percent of the land, were marked by the Israelis on the map in the form of stars. We added reasonable links between the areas. The links are not ideal, but they are there. No area was excluded from redeployment—even the bordering areas, villages, Jerusalem, Qalqilyah and its surrounding villages, and all of Jerusalem's villages. Even Jerusalem's villages were placed in one chain—I mean Abu Dis, al-'Ayzariyah, al-Sawahirah, and al-'Uzayziyah. All of these villages were treated as one group. I believe that this is the first and basic step that, in addition to the next redeployment that will be carried out on three phases—one phase every six months—will result in a full Palestinian jurisdiction in accordance with the Declaration of Principles.

[Al-Barqawi] I asked you a question 10 days ago, and I want to repeat it today for emphasis. After the Israeli redeployment takes place, how many roadblocks will I encounter on my way from Tulkaram to Jericho?

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[Quray'] You will not encounter any new roadblocks. This was the agreement. Even if the roadblocks are not reduced, they will not be increased.

[Al-Barqawi] There is another problem that concerns the holy religious places in Nabulus and other cities. Has this problem been solved?

[Quray'] Security arrangements were made for these places to facilitate worship in them.

[Al-Barqawi] Will there be Israeli protection?

[Quray'] There will be security arrangements.

[Al-Barqawi] When will elections take place?

[Quray'] I think the elections will be held next spring, and not before, so that the redeployment will be completed and the system to supervise the elections can be set up. We need some time to complete these steps. Therefore, I think next spring is the suitable time. What is new about the elections, which is important, is that executive and legislative powers were stipulated in the text. Elections will be held to elect a chairman of the Palestinian Authority [PA]. This is important. The council will be elected, and it was agreed that it will include 83 members, which is good. It was also agreed that after the council is elected, it will elect its head. There will be a head of the legislative council, and there is a chairman for the executive authority, in addition to a judiciary that will be independent. Therefore, the three branches of power were included in this agreement clearly for the first time.

[Al-Barqawi] Regarding the elections, do you intend to nominate yourself?

[Quray'] This is premature and we do not aspire to this. We want free and fair elections that will produce young leaders who have faith in their cause, and who can shoulder the burden and the responsibilities. This is what we want. We want a council that will lay a sound foundation for Palestinian democratic life and that will question all our actions. This is what we want from the upcoming elections. It is common knowledge that these are the first elections the Palestinian people will hold. Therefore, we must prepare ourselves for these elections as best we can. When these elections are held, we should show the world that we can conduct them fairly and sincerely so that they produce leaders who can assume the burden and the responsibility, and who will be able to support what is right and reward those who do good and hold those who make mistakes accountable. This is what we expect from the upcoming elections, God willing.

[Al-Barqawi] My colleagues in the engineering department wave to me with their hands folded as if they are handcuffed and ask me about the prisoners?

[Quray'] We have won an agreement concerning the prisoners, which I believe is good. Personally, I am proud of this agreement. This agreement stipulates that all of our women who are detained in the occupation jails will be released. God willing, all of the women will be released on 28 and 29 September, or during the following week. This is a great achievement. President Mubarak played an important part in this. There are also the sick and the young and the elderly. There are those who served two-thirds of their sentences, and those who have served 10 years. These categories will be released in the first and second stages. The first stage begins immediately after the signing of the agreement and the second precedes the elections. I think about 3,500 of our brother detainees will be released, in light of these categories. The last batch will be released with the beginning of the negotiations on the final status; and it is only eight months or less until the negotiations on the final status. The prisons will be emptied and these heroes will be released. The agreement reached on the issue of prisoners as an appendix to the transitional agreement is, in my opinion, a good one. President Abu-'Ammar and I wanted all the prisoners to be released as one group and on the same day, but this was not possible.

[Al-Barqawi] Brother Abu-'Ala', we want to end this interview as we started it. We began by saying, in spite of everything that will be said about this agreement, do you believe that the agreement has negative points the people will criticize?

[Quray'] If one can talk about negative points, these consist of the fact that the agreement does not give us back all of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in one parcel. This is a negative point. Another negative point is that it leaves pockets of the Israeli army. Another negative point is that it does not terminate the settlement issue definitively. Another negative point is that Jerusalem is not regained. Other than these, I believe the agreement is a sound step on the road to attaining the other objectives: the regaining of Jerusalem, ending the settlements, the repatriation of the refugees, and the establishment of the Palestinian state. The agreement has paved the way for achieving all of this. It is natural that the agreement will be criticized. We expect such criticism.

[Al-Barqawi] We at the Voice of Palestine will listen to some of this criticism because we adopt a democratic approach. Abu- 'Ala', thank you.

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PLO Representative Assesses Taba Negotiations

AU2209200295 Mainz 3SAT Television Network in German 1720 GMT 22 Sep 95

[Interview with 'Abdallah Franji, PLO representative in Bonn, by Stefan Schulze-Hausmann in Bonn studio — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Schulze-Hausmann] I would like to welcome 'Abdallah Franji, the Palestinian general representative in Germany, who is in our Bonn studio. Good evening.

[Franji] Good evening.

[Schulze-Hausmann] What is happening now? Has the PLO presented further demands, or are things being held up by 'Arafat's negotiating tactics, which is what some people suspect?

[Franji] No, the problem is much greater than one might think. We have had a great deal of difficulty. We are now trying to achieve a compromise with the Israelis, especially regarding the Israeli settlements, that is, the few families that live in Hebron. It is a problem. Irrespective of what one does, irrespective of the concessions that the Israelis may make, if the Israelis continue to demonstrate their presence by way of the Israeli military, Israeli jeeps, that will be insufficient for the Palestinians, and there will be no compromise for 'Arafat that will enable him to satisfy his people back home.

We have had this agreement for a year. We should have already taken over the towns of Hebron, Nabulus, and Ramallah. We should have held elections there and in the other West Bank towns a long time ago. The situation we now have has come about because the Israelis have insisted on guaranteeing the security of the Israeli settlers, which means that the army will remain and that means that we have to conduct elections there under the supervision of the Israeli Army. It also means that we cannot have free elections. That is the problem.

I believe that if we fail to come up with clear-cut words and concepts jointly now, then the Israelis will be in a much stronger position regarding interpretations than the Palestinians. They repeatedly interpret things to their advantage, and that is also because the texts of the agreements are in English, including the ones that we have signed. This has, I think, been a significant source of conflict between the Palestinians and Israelis. Nevertheless, I believe that the necessary will exists on both the part of the Palestinians and the Israelis. I think that, following the Sabbath, it will probably be possible to achieve a signing.

[Schulze-Hausmann] In other words, the town of Hebron is one of the obstacles — as you have explained — to the conclusion of an agreement. Another point that one frequently hears mentioned are the 5,500 prisoners that are still in Israeli prisons. To what extent has this factor become a factor in the negotiations.

[Franji] From the beginning, for the past one and half years, since 'Arafat has been in Gaza, we agreed with the Israelis that all the Palestinian prisoners are to be set free. Had we achieved that then, a good atmosphere would have been created among the Palestinians, and many more people, the families, the relatives of these prisoners, would have backed the peace process. There would have been more support from the people in the streets for the peace process. The Israelis have been saying they will only let 300 go, then 500, 1,000, but they do not want to release all of them. We insist that they should all be released, even the members of Hamas, because we would then create a mood of satisfaction among the Palestinian population and win people over to our side, in support of the peace process. I do no understand why the Israelis want to keep so many prisoners. They would definitely profit from the release of the Palestinians and so would the Palestinian Authority, and thus so would the entire peace process.

[Schulze-Hausmann] There is a plan under which the prisoners are to be released in successive stages, that is, to release a certain number at each stage of the process. Is that not a practical course of action that lies in the interest of all the parties concerned?

[Franji] No, that is not what we agreed. In retrospect, it is a matter of interpretation again. At the very beginning, we agreed that we were concluding peace. All those who worked for the uprising, for the resistance, were to be freed and Israeli sentences quashed. That means that, directly after the conclusion of the Oslo agreement, they should have all been released. The fact that they are still in prisons creates a very negative atmosphere, it causes some Palestinians to mistrust our Israeli partners. They say: My God, we have concluded peace with them, we have said that we forgive the Israelis, and we proposed that we work together to create a better future. However, if they insist that these people have to remain in prison longer, that certainly does not help Yasir 'Arafat and does not help the peace process. That is why I hope that the Israeli will give way on this issue.

It does, of course, look as if the Palestinians are demanding more, but that is logical, because the Palestinians are in the weaker position, because there is strong desire for freedom among the Palestinians, and they want to achieve independence as quickly as possible. If the

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Israelis respond positively, then we will both profit, the Israeli side and the Palestinian side.

[Schulze-Hausmann] Some correspondents have reported today that there is already fierce criticism within the Palestinian population of this agreement that was not concluded today. Some, especially Hamas leaders, feel that 'Arafat is allowing himself to be hoodwinked. Is that an extreme standpoint or is that the mood of the people, that is to say, the people do not support 'Arafat in these negotiations?

[Franji] I would say people are behind 'Arafat as a Palestinian leader, people have confidence in 'Arafat, people support 'Arafat. The majority of Palestinians support him. The Hamas people might be against 'Arafat's policy course, but so far, they have not sought to bring about a situation in which he could no longer conduct negotiations with the Israelis for the Palestinians and for the Palestinian cause. Nevertheless, the Palestinians as a whole are very dissatisfied with the course of developments over the past 18 months.

If in accordance with the Oslo agreement we would have had elections a year ago, the release of the Palestinians prisoners, and had received the rest of the West Bank, things would look different: These are issues that make Palestinians say we do not have a normal lives as a result of the peace process, but on the other hand the Israelis have a normal life, they have their diplomatic contacts, the country is not disadvantaged. On the other hand, the Palestinians can only move from Gaza to the West Bank with permission, sometimes they cannot go from Gaza to other areas of the West Bank, and the crossing-points are always being sealed off. The whole thing hinders development in Gaza and the West Bank. That is why there is so much dissatisfaction among the Palestinians. If we compare the current condition of, the atmosphere among the Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank with the situation one and half years ago, then I have to conclude that support for the peace process was much greater then than today. The opposite should be the case.

[Schulze-Hausmann] You have already talked about the delays, things are a year behind schedule, but everything is to be completed by 1999, which is to see a final settlement regarding status. Will it be possible to accomplish that?

[Franji] We have to carrying on working so that we do not provide the opponents of peace any opportunities, so that we do not have to work in their areas, do not have to work within a political framework set by the radicals. We have to make sufficiently rapid progress so that the alternatives are in our hands and not the other way around. If we do not achieve that, we will waste an opportunity and that would be a great pity for the peace process in the region.

[Schulze-Hausmann] Many thanks for talking us to Mr. Franji.

'Arafat Adviser on Unresolved Issues With Israel

JN2309155195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1212 GMT 23 Sep 95

[Telephone interview with Marwan Kanafani, adviser to and spokesman for PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, by 'Asif Humaydi in Gaza on 23 September; from the "Today's Events" program — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Humaydi] Good evening, brother Marwan.

[Kanafani] Good evening.

[Humaydi] The Council of Ministers held its weekly meeting chaired by Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. What were the most important topics discussed?

[Kanafani] The most important topics were the ones that concern the Palestinian people, which are related to what is going on in Taba and what will happen in Taba this evening. I understand that the cabinet's statement was fully supportive of the government's position on this subject and the position of the Palestinian delegation to the negotiations. The pending issues explained by the chairman to the ministers are the same issues which the cabinet asked the delegation to resolve before signing the agreement.

[Humaydi] How did the cabinet assess the progress of Palestinian-Israeli negotiations in Taba, especially the latest U.S. contacts and the contacts between the president and the Jordanian monarch and the representatives of the friendly countries to the National Authority?

[Kanafani] The Council of Minister's evaluation of this subject was a positive one concerning what the delegation has done and its activities. It lauded the efforts of the Palestinian delegation in this respect. As for the results, this is something else. The results will be presented fully to the Council when an agreement is reached. As you know we did not reach agreement. Therefore, I suggest waiting before answering this question until the agreement is concluded with the Israelis.

[Humaydi] Yes, but there are noticeable diplomatic efforts. There are U.S. contacts with the Taba talks, and contacts by the president ['Arafat] with the Jordanian monarch and representatives of friendly countries. What about these contacts?

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[Kanafani] These contacts are part of the diplomatic game, and show the concern of the various countries, especially the countries of the region, with the future of peace that is basically the Palestinian-Israeli peace. The contact by his majesty the king and the contacts by leaders of other countries, as well as the president's ['Arafat's] meeting with the representatives of countries and his contacts with some regional and international leaders, represent the international responsibility on this subject and the impact of a possible negative decision, God forbid, not only on the Palestinian-Israeli track, but on the entire peace process with the other parties. As you know, we went to Taba with the aim of reaching an agreement. We went there in good faith, and we made great efforts to reach an agreement. We have tackled the issues sincerely and realistically, because we know what is going on on the other side. We had hoped that the other side would have the same sense of responsibility and objectivity. Regrettably, we were not met with the same spirit. It took seven long days before reaching what can be described as an agreement if we overlook the outstanding issues. The Council of Ministers gave confidence and support to the Palestinian delegation, and instructed it to go on the same path until it could resolve these pending issues.

[Humaydi] Brother Marwan Kanafani, you said yesterday that there are five pending issues. Today, Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat said there are 18 points. Have new points emerged?

[Kanafani] There is no conflict between what Dr. 'Urayqat said and what I said yesterday. The five points which I spoke about are the main points, from which other points or details stem. We do not think they will be difficult to resolve if we agree on the main points. For example, the subject of prisoners, which in our opinion is the most important issue, is a fundamentally important subject that cannot be delayed and does not need the formation of a committee. The Palestinian people and officials are fed up with [conflict over] such issues. Therefore, a clear resolution should be reached that includes specific figures and dates and immediate measures once the agreement is signed. These are the basic issues, and from them other issues are derived which are no less important but in our view are easier to reach an understanding on.

[Humaydi] Marwan Kanafani, adviser to the president and his spokesman, thank you very much.

[Kanafani] God bless you.

Islamic Jihad Activists Said Arrested in Gaza

TA2209114495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 22 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An Islamic Jihad newspaper in the Gaza Strip reports that dozens of the organization's activists were arrested over the past two days by the Palestinian Authority after Israel had imposed a closure on Gaza.

Palestinian police sources told our correspondent Yoni Ben- Menahem that Israel had notified them about the Islamic Jihad plan to carry out a suicide attack in Israel on the occasion of the signing of the Oslo B agreement and the Jewish high holidays, and that the arrests were carried out against this backdrop.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Taba Talks Yield Agreement on Expanding Self-Rule

Kanafani on Stumbling Blocks in Talks

JN2209141395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1235 GMT 22 Sep 95

[Telephone interview with Marwan Kanafani, adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, in Taba, by unidentified correspondent in the studio from the "Today's Events" program—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Good evening, brother Marwan.

[Kanafani] Welcome.

[Correspondent] Reports here say that the Palestinian-Israeli agreement on the second stage will be initialed at 1200 today. Now it is more than 1430, and the agreement has not been signed yet.

[Kanafani] I do not see the agreement concluding soon, because there are some final issues that need to be resolved, as I told the radio in the interview this morning. The Palestinian side insists on reaching an understanding on them before the signing. There are routine issues that should be dealt with, such as reviewing the agreement. We are racing against time, and I assure you that all Palestinian negotiators are doing their best to reach an agreement today. We know that the whole world is awaiting this agreement, and that the president is receiving phone calls from all over the world. We want to reach an agreement; we came here to reach an agreement. But we want a good, comprehensive agreement that does not leave anything for the good intentions of the other side. We had a bitter experience in this regard in the past when we left things for the good intentions of the other side; we are still

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awaiting the implementation of these things [not further specified].

[Correspondent] Brother Marwan, you spoke about pending issues. Are these issues part of the negotiations?

[Kanafani] Yes, we have five pending issues that need a decision and and an understanding. The first and foremost issue is the prisoners and detainees; then the area of Jericho; the agreement on Hebron and the mapping related to this issue; the legal agreement; and the final and general reading of the agreement.

[Correspondent] Thank you Marwan Kanfani, adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat. Let's keep in touch.

[Kanafani] You're welcome.

Peres Details Parts of Agreement

NC2209140695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1245 GMT 22 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Taba, 22 Sep (MENA)—Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has announced that Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government in the Palestinian Authority, and Yo'el Singer, legal advisor at the Israeli Foreign Ministry, are the two officials who later [illegible] will initial the agreement on expanding Palestini[illegible]ule in the West Bank.

Peres said in [illegible]nts to journalists that regarding Hebron, joint [illegible]di[illegible]n-Israeli patrols will patrol two or three areas of the town after the Israeli forces are redeployed in these areas.

He added that the Israeli settlers—there are around 400 of them in Hebron—will fall under the jurisdiction of the Hebron municipality which will be handed over to the Palestinians. But they will continue to be Israeli citizens. He pointed out that the Palestinian legislative elections will take place in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip within six months of signing the agreement during its final stage. The signing ceremony will take place in Washington at the end of next week.

With regard to the issue of electricity in the West Bank, the Israeli foreign minister said that detailed negotiations will take place between the two sides three months after signing the agreement.

With regard to releasing the Palestinian detainees of which there are around 5200 in Israeli prisons, Shim'on Peres clarified that agreement has been reached to form a committee consisting of two members from the Palestinian and the Israeli sides. Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian Authority, will be one of the members of this committee. He said that this committee will set the number of the first batch of detainees who will be released, after the final signing of the agreement. As for the second batch, they will be released on the eve of the Palestinian legislative council elections.

He added that with regard to the third batch, this issue will be discussed during meetings taking place with the Palestinian side.

On the issue of water, Peres said that the problem regarding transferring the water authority to the Palestinian side has been resolved. The volume of water allocated to the West Bank will be increased from 270 million cubic meters to 410 million cubic meters annually.

Signing of Agreement 'Delayed'

TA2209132995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 22 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The signing of the Oslo B agreement has been delayed. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that hectic discussions are continuing on a series of contentious issues. Among the issues that remain unresolved are the number of Palestinian prisoners scheduled to be released and the dates of their release, the Palestinian demand for the expansion of Jericho's boundaries, which is based on an earlier decision, and other disagreements on legal issues.

In a report just in from Taba, our political correspondent notes that the talks may have to be continued on Saturday [23 September].

Talks Halted for Sabbath

TA2209164295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 22 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Taba talks between the Israeli and Palestinian delegations have been halted due to the Jewish Sabbath. The talks will resume tomorrow evening in an attempt to complete the agreement within three hours so that it can be initialed.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat expressed the hope that the agreement would be wrapped up within a matter of hours. 'Arafat asserted that the reason the negotiations had to be continued was the time lost as a result of Abu-'Ala''s [Ahmad Quray'] illness.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that Israel had not made any concessions in the religious sphere; that is, with regard to prayer procedures at the Cave of the Patriarchs and Rachel's Tomb.

Minister Peres and his entourage will spend the Sabbath in Elat. Yasir 'Arafat has left for the Gaza Strip.

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Our correspondent notes that several issues remain unresolved including the number of Palestinian prisoners scheduled to be freed and the dates of their release, the Palestinian demand for the expansion of Jericho's boundaries, which is based on an earlier decision, and other disagreements over legal issues.

One of the problems in this sphere is the question of jurisdiction over Israeli citizens inside the rural areas under Palestinian authority. For example, who will prosecute an Israeli citizen who commits a traffic violation inside these areas?

Our correspondent Yehudit Zilberstein reports that Palestinian delegation head Abu-'Ala' was released from Elat's Yoseftal Hospital and flown to Jerusalem. Abu-'Ala' complained about feeling unwell yesterday and was hospitalized for tests.

'Arafat Leaves for Cairo; Peres for Elat

NC2209155795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1525 GMT 22 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Taba, 22 Sep (MENA)— Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat left Taba for Cairo this evening after the official announcement was made that the agreement on implementing the second stage of the Palestinian self-rule agreement will not be initialed today.

Palestinian sources told MENA that President 'Arafat will brief Husni Mubarak on the progress in the negotiations and the obstacles that have hampered signing the agreement.

Sources close to the negotiations said that there are two possibilities before the negotiators. One of them is that they resume their negotiations tomorrow evening— Saturday, 23 September— after the end of the Jewish sabbath. In this case, they will only have Sunday, 24 September, to finalize the negotiations. The other option is to start a fresh round of negotiations on Wednesday, 27 September, after the Jewish new year celebrations are over with. These celebrations take place on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday.

In another development, Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and his delegation left Taba for Elat.

PA Negotiators Stress Prisoners Issue

TA2209195195 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Sep 95

[Interview with Sufyan Abu-Zayidah, PA official in charge of Israeli desk, and Hisham 'Abd-al-Raziq, member of Fatah Higher Committee in Gaza Strip, by anchor Yusuf Isma'il in the studio — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Isma'il] Today you took part in talks with Ministers Yosi Sarid and Moshe Shahal. The opposition in the Israeli Knesset has all along highlighted the issue of extraditing fugitives following the incident in Jericho. On the other hand, you are demanding the release of detainees. Sufyan, with regard to the handing over of fugitives, you are placing the Israeli Government in a difficult situation vis-a-vis the opposition.

[Abu-Zayidah] First of all, there must be no linkage between the issue of Palestinian prisoners and the handing over of fugitives.

[Isma'il] The Israeli opposition — the Likud and others — are linking the two issues.

[Abu-Zayidah] The Likud and the Israeli opposition not only do not accept handing over, they do not accept the agreement, the PLO, and all the Palestinian people in this region. If there are no reasons, the Israeli opposition will create reasons to fight the Palestinian people. I have no problem with the Israeli opposition. The problem, however, is with the Israeli logic as a whole.

Why should there be no linkage between the two issues? First of all, because the prisoner issue should be directly linked to the agreement that will be signed within the coming hours or days, and not with any other issue. If the agreement turns the page of the past, the prisoner issue is the most important line on this page. Second, with regard to handing over fugitives, will an Israeli — whether right wing or left wing — accept handing over to the Palestinian Authority [PA] a Jew accused of killing a Palestinian in cold blood? Will he accept this? If there is a single Jew who is ready to hand a Jew who has killed a Palestinian so that he can stand trial in a Palestinian court, then we will be ready today to hand over Palestinians.

[Isma'il] Hisham, I assume that you agree with Sufyan. Is that so?

['Abd-al-Raziq] I say that the Israelis should tell the Palestinian side that what we demand is not the handing over of fugitives but that the accused should have a fair and open trial so that he can receive his due punishment. As for the demand to hand over fugitives, I believe that this is political suicide and should not be demanded. If there is an Israeli claim that the trials are conducted within minutes or an hours, Israel is responsible because it forces the Palestinian side to do so.

[Isma'il] Hisham, when the Palestinian side signed the Oslo Accords and was given the right to demand the

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handing over of fugitives, you agreed to that. Today, when you back down from this issue you give the Israeli opposition a weapon against the government.

['Abd-al-Raziq] It is also written in the accords that if this accused person is convicted, he will stay with the PA until the end of his sentence.

[Isma'il] Good enough, but as the Israeli opposition has said, the Israeli Government and all the Israeli people criticize summary trials and the imposition of a 12-year prison sentence on a person in three minutes.

['Abd-al-Raziq] We do not want these trials to become the PA's method, but as I said, the Israelis are responsible for that. The Israelis should stop demanding the handing over of fugitives. They should demand open and fair trials for those fugitives. I believe that this will satisfy the Israeli side. The question is: Should someone who has committed a crime receive his due punishment, or should he be handed over to Israel?

[Isma'il] Actually the two persons who were tried in Jericho would not have even been tried there at all if Israel had not discovered through the third partner — who was arrested in Israel and admitted the crime — that there were two other persons who took part in the same operation and escaped to Jericho. It is this sort of embarrassment that you create for the Israeli Government.

['Abd-al-Raziq] We do not need embarrassments. We act in good faith to implement the accords, but we should not be asked to commit political suicide. Perhaps, some issues are stipulated to in the accords, but there is justification in bypassing them so we may avoid great damage that could drown the Palestinian side in an unnecessary whirlpool. [passage omitted]

[Isma'il] Hisham, do you think that, for example, your meeting today will affect the resumption of the talks tomorrow in Taba?

['Abd-al-Raziq] We believe that the agreement should not be signed without concluding the prisoner issue and without complete agreement reached on it. For our part, as Palestinians we believe that this file must be closed, and this is what we will convey to brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat].

[Isma'il] I believe that after you present your report and after the two ministers present their report to the prime minister, there will certainly be contacts between the joint committees to handle this issue.

[Abu-Zayidah] Certainly, there will be meetings and contacts, but this will be insufficient if we do not succeed in closing the prisoner file at this stage.

[Isma'il] So we look forward to a new week of talks. Many thanks to Sufyan Abu-Zayidah and Hisham 'Abd-al-Raziq.

Disagreement Includes Hebron, Prisoners

JN2209190295 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian-Israeli negotiations between President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres ended in Taba at 1730 today without an agreement.

In a statement to our radio from Taba, Minister of Local Government Sa'ib 'Urayqat said disagreement on 18 points will be discussed tomorrow evening in a new round of negotiations.

Answering a question on the points of disagreement, Dr. 'Urayqat said they deal with maps, Hebron, some legal and security issues, redeployment, and release of prisoners.

On the sanctity of deadlines, 'Urayqat said: We do not want the deadlines to be swords hanging over our heads. We have worked diligently for more than 20 hours of negotiations per day, and we have resolved some issues such as elections, but we want a detailed agreement on the points of the 400-page agreement.

Peres Says PA To Get 85% of Hebron

TA2209203195 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 22 Sep 95

[Studio talk between anchorwoman Oshrat Kottler and political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Kottler] It remained unclear until the very last moment whether an agreement would be initialed in Taba this evening. The negotiations were eventually put off due to the Sabbath and will resume tomorrow evening. Our political correspondent returned from Taba a short time ago to join us here in the studio. Good evening to political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen.

[Rosen] Good evening.

[Kottler] So can we say that an agreement has been reached?

[Rosen] Despite being proven wrong so many times, I guess that the answer is yes. Several hours ago, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres publicly claimed that the agreement would be signed tomorrow evening. Just another two or three hours of negotiations are required. All the major problems have been resolved and only some extremely complex legal formulations

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remain to be worked out. These issues, however, do not figure largely in the negotiations and the agreement will apparently be signed tomorrow night.

[Kottler] Let us hear what Foreign Minister Peres had to say this afternoon:

[Begin Peres recording] We have reached agreement on virtually all the major issues, including principles, maps, and the distribution of powers. To my regret, the Sabbath is approaching and as a result we were forced to stop the talks. We agreed to meet immediately after the Sabbath ends tomorrow — at approximately 1830 [1630 GMT] — in an attempt to wrap up the remaining questions within three hours and if possible to initial the agreement. [end recording]

[Kottler] So what will the Taba agreement be comprised of, once what Peres called the remaining questions are wrapped up?

[Rosen] I think that one can say that this is an almost impossible agreement which apparently has managed to force itself on an impossible reality. The territory, while being divided between two peoples, at the same time remains almost equally in the possession of each respective party. For example, take the maps that were handed to the Palestinians last night. These maps ultimately turned out to be much better from the Palestinian point of view than what they were shown at the beginning of the week. The Palestinians are receiving control of approximately 30 percent of Judaea and Samaria, with territorial continuity between part of their townships and villages; for example between Ramallah and Bi'r Zayt. Hebron is undoubtedly the key issue. Hebron was originally slated to remain under the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] exclusive control but now 85 percent of Hebron's territory will be under Palestinian control. There will be joint patrols by the Palestinian Police and the IDF in locations such as Hazekhukhit Junction. The Civil Administration building will be transferred to the Palestinians. Hebron is definitely a very big issue, and all that being said, the bottom line is that this agreement is far less security oriented than what was originally sought by the IDF and the defense establishment. [passage omitted]

Sides Said Insisting on Signing Accord

NC2309140295 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1307 GMT 23 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Taba, 23 Sep (MENA)—Palestinian and Israeli sources in Taba have noted the Palestinian and Israeli sides' insistence on signing an agreement on expanding Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank during the last round, due to open this evening [23 September].

The sources said the two sides might be forced to leave some contentious points to be discussed at a future stage. But, the sources added, an agreement on a timetable to release Palestinian detainees represents a top priority for the Palestinian side, which is adamant about not signing an agreement before reaching a solution to that issue.

Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian National Authority, and two of his aides discussed this issue with Israeli Police Affairs Minister Moshe Shahal and Israeli Environment Minister Yosi Sarid in Jerusalem yesterday. The meetings were held parallel to the Taba negotiations.

As regards the third [number as received] point concerning the area of Jericho, which delayed the signing of the agreement to expand Palestinian self-rule, the Palestinian side also insists on resolving it during this round before initialing an agreement.

This issue has been postponed since an agreement on the first phase was signed in Cairo in May 1994. Then the Palestinian side demanded to take over the Jericho area of about 570 square km, but it only got Jericho City and some land around it totaling 54 square km.

As for Hebron, agreement has been reached on the city. It stipulates that the 400 Israelis living in the city, who are extremist Jews, be under the jurisdiction of the city which will be handed over to the Palestinian National Authority. The agreement also provides that a small Israeli forces will protect them, in addition to joint patrols on the roads around that neighborhood and on the road leading to Qiryat Arba' a few kilometers from Hebron.

Jewish religious areas in Hebron will be subject to joint Palestinian-Israeli responsibility.

'Arafat, Peres Resume Talks

NC2309184695 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1830 GMT 23 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Taba, 23 Sep (MENA)—The Palestinian-Israeli talks to expand Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank resumed in Taba this evening with a separate meeting between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. The two accompanying delegations are expected to join the talks shortly. Working committees of experts will be formed to examine the points of difference between the two sides. The new round of talks follows a one-day break due to the Jewish Sabbath.

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Peres Statements on 'Complicated' Talks

JN2309195795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Sep 95

[Report by Hanadi al-Imam in Taba]

[FBIS Translated Text] Negotiations between President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres began about an hour ago. No agreement has been reached on outstanding issues. These issues include the release of Palestinian prisoners according to a timetable, the number and [word indistinct] of Palestinian policemen in Hebron, West Bank maps in general, and the Jericho area, which the two sides should have discussed three months after the signing of the Cairo agreement. Other issues include revising the annexes of the agreement, particularly the security and legal annexes.

In a statement to Israeli Television before the meeting, Peres said that the two sides have managed to overcome most of the major issues. However, negotiations on the West Bank were more complicated than those on Gaza-Jericho, because both sides have the conviction that they own the religious sites in the West Bank, particularly in Hebron, he added. He said that these negotiations are the most complicated in the Middle East and the whole world, given that two peoples live on one land. Regarding the possibility of initialing an agreement today or tomorrow, he said: Theoretically, we can finalize second-phase negotiations this evening, although some subsidiary issues could prove to be more complicated. Peres pointed out that the two parties should make concessions with regard to some issues, noting that without concessions nothing can be realized. He added: We do not want to control the lives of Palestinians, but the security of the Israelis should not violated.

Everyone is awaiting the initialing of the agreement on the second phase of the Declaration of Principles agreement today or tomorrow morning. Such an accord will be reached only if the Palestinian and Israeli sides can work out solutions for the remaining issues.

Abu-Rudaynah on Talks, 'Arafat Visit to Amman

JN2409064095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0537 GMT 24 Sep 95

[Telephone interview with Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, in Taba, by Fathi al-Barqawi in the studio, from the "New Day" feature—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Barqawi] Brother Nabil, good morning.

[Abu-Rudaynah] Brother Fathi, good morning to you.

[Al-Barqawi] You are talking to us from Taba?

[Abu-Rudaynah] We apologize for disturbing you.

[Al-Barqawi] On the contrary, this makes us happy.

[Abu-Rudaynah] Thank you.

[Al-Barqawi] I am sure you have new reports for us.

[Abu-Rudaynah] A new session of negotiations between President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and Israeli Foreign Minister Peres began at 0730 today.

[Al-Barqawi] Seven minutes ago?

[Abu-Rudaynah] Yes, seven minutes ago, to assess the work of the committees which lasted until 0500 today. In a few moments we will see what could be described as the results of these negotiations. Some committees have completed their work; others continue to discuss the details of the agreement. As I told you, the meeting began a few minutes ago to assess the work of the committees that continued throughout the night.

[Al-Barqawi] Did you meet with some members of our negotiating delegation who sit on these committees?

[Abu-Rudaynah] The committees, which continued their meetings throughout the night, continued to submit their reports to President Abu-'Ammar. The members of these committees move from one place to another, consulting this or that official and pursuing discussion of the details. Brother Fathi, did you know that President Abu-'Ammar was expected to leave for Amman this morning?

[Al-Barqawi] Yes, to meet with King Husayn.

[Abu-Rudaynah] As you also know, President Abu-'Ammar, who was in Gaza, and His Majesty the king spoke on the phone at noon yesterday. President Abu-'Ammar briefed him on the latest results of the Taba talks. A second phone contact from Taba took place with Amman last night. President Abu-'Ammar was expected to arrive in Amman, but as the negotiations are still under way and King Husayn is scheduled to leave for Luxembourg, it has been decided to postpone this visit. It will take place as soon as possible.

[Al-Barqawi] Just an appraisal of today's negotiations. Do you expect their completion and the initialing....

[Abu-Rudaynah, interrupting] This session is crucial. As I told you, the session will discuss the assessments and the viewpoints of the working committees overnight work.

[Al-Barqawi] We will contact you again. Thank you, Mr. Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, President Yasir 'Arafat's adviser.

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[Abu-Rudaynah] Thanks to you, and until we meet again.

Palestinian Officials on Talks, Prisoners

JN2409080895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0510 GMT 24 Sep 95

[Telephone interview with Furayh Abu-Middayn, minister of justice in the Palestinian Authority, in Taba, and Hisham 'Abd-al-Raziq, member of the Fatah Higher Committee and of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, in Taba, by Fathi al-Barqawi in the studio; from the "New Day" feature—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Barqawi] We have established contact with our Palestinian negotiating delegation in Taba. We have Mr. Furayh Abu-Middayn on the line. Good morning.

[Abu-Middayn] Good morning.

[Al-Barqawi] I know you have not slept.

[Abu-Middayn] Yes.

[Al-Barqawi] This is exhausting and tiring, but we would like you to brief us on the latest developments.

[Abu-Middayn] We are more in a state of war than in a situation of conducting negotiations. If such a comparison is possible, we can say it is battle from house to house, from room to room concerning everything: prisoners, Hebron, the maps, and the legal jurisdiction. We are all on a state of alert. I do not know whether we can bridge the gap which clearly emerged over the past week. However, there was some progress on some specific points. Brother Hisham 'Abd-al-Raziq, who is close by, is ready to talk to you about the prisoners issue, but I would like to sum up the situation first. The legal issue remains contentious for the simple reason that the Israeli Army has forcefully entered the picture. The Israeli side cancels the drafts Mr. Peres submits. They told us that the army and not the political command is their final authority on the legal issue and legal jurisdiction in the West Bank. This is the major threat to the implementation of the agreement in the future: that the generals are allowed to interfere. We have only generals at the negotiating table. Mr. Peres tries to embellish things here and to make them easier there. Unfortunately, he is not the one who makes the decision on all of these topics. What can I say? The Beirut battles were much easier than what is happening in Taba now.

[Al-Barqawi] Should we have sent military men to Taba?

[Abu-Middayn] No. We have right on our side so there is no need. Each of us knows his role and his duties. When the logic of power and force try to dictate stands, the Jewish people and not the Palestinian people are threatened. This is the danger they will feel many years from now. This is not the frame of mind with which to approach peace and the logic of peace. Our doubts have been substantiated by the facts on the ground.

[Al-Barqawi] What are the most controversial issues? The Hebron issue, for example?

[Abu-Middayn] There still are many differences concerning Hebron. The maps have still not been settled. The legal issue is completely deadlocked, and the Israeli side rejects Mr. Peres' version, not the Palestinian version. In any case, Peres' version is not acceptable either.

[Al-Barqawi] May we speak to Mr. Hisham 'Abd-al-Raziq now?

[Abu-Middayn] One moment. The president just now left his room for the decisive meeting five minutes from now. Stay with me. The truth is that our performance is unique. The truth is that the negotiations do not focus on a balance of interests but on the balance of power. This is unfortunate.

[Al-Barqawi] We will remain united in one front.

[Abu-Midayn] You can now speak to brother Hisham.

[Al-Barqawi] Brother Hisham, good morning.

['Abd-al-Raziq] Hello.

[Al-Barqawi] You are in charge of the prisoner file. Has there been any progress in this area?

['Abd-al-Raziq] This file has not been completely closed. There are Palestinian proposals and there are Israeli proposals. The Israeli proposals do not meet Palestinian ambitions. We think this issue concerns all Palestinians and this file should be closed. Regrettably, however, Israel has been raising many old ideas. These ideas refer to hands smeared with blood, referring to those who killed Israelis. The Palestinians reject this completely.

[Al-Barqawi] What are we waiting for today, especially since all the news media are talking about initialing a Palestinian- Israeli agreement?

['Abd-al-Raziq] A meeting will be held soon between brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. Outstanding issues will be addressed in this meeting. I think this meeting will be the last. All issues must be settled. We hope that the issue of prisoners will figure highly so as to close this file.

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[Al-Barqawi] According to Justice Minister Furayh Abu-Middayn, the negotiations on the Israeli side are being conducted by the army generals.

['Abd-al-Raziq] The negotiations are not easy. They are tough. Eventually, however, we believe that an agreement will be reached. We think the agreement serves the interests of the Palestinian and Israeli peoples.

[Al-Barqawi] We will contact you again for updates on the talks. Thank you brother Hisham.

['Abd-al-Raziq] You are welcome.

Kanafani Says Police Movement Main Snag

TA2409085495 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0813 GMT 24 Sep 95

[News conference by Palestinian Authority spokesman Marwan Kanafani in Taba; monitored in progress — live, in English; Kanafani's remarks occasionally drowned by correspondent's comments]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] ...we came here to have a deal, we want to have a deal, we are ready to have a deal, we are ready now to sign a deal, we need a deal. And the Israeli side is not making the job easy for us. There are agreements, [words indistinct], there are items that we have agreed upon, there are items that (?have) to be compared to other items of the same categories. We don't see the flexibility we want to see from the Israelis to help us to sign the agreement. [Words indistinct], and we want to do it. Unfortunately, this way we have no room to do and to reflect the wish of the millions and millions of people who are waiting for us to finish the job.

However, [words indistinct]. Some of the Israeli delegation now are in our quarters. They are talking to us, they talk to the president. Some of the delegations came to our quarters and talked to the president, talked to the rest of the Palestinian negotiating team, and let's hope that we could patch it before there is the holiday that will stop all of us. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0813 GMT on 24 September carries a related report by political correspondent Shlomo Raz from Taba, who cites Kanafani as saying that "the direct reason for the breakdown of the talks is freedom of movement for the Palestinian Police between various areas. According to the draft agreement, the police are supposed to get approval from the Israeli security forces before moving about."]

'Arafat Walks Out of Talks 'Shouting'

TA2409083395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 24 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Taba talks have encountered difficulties. The Palestinians said Yasir 'Arafat walked out of the discussions with Minister Shim'on Peres shouting uncontrollably. It is unclear when the talks will be resumed. According to this report, Major General Ilan Biran tried to persuade the PLO chief to return to the negotiating table.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz adds that the main snag is the release of Palestinian prisoners.

Kanafani Says Negotiations Deadlocked

JN2409093595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0840 GMT 24 Sep 95

[Telephone interview with Marwan Kanafani, Yasir 'Arafat's adviser and official spokesman, in Taba, by Daniella Khalaf in the studio—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Khalaf] Good morning, Mr. Marwan.

[Kanafani] Good morning to you. How do you do?

[Khalaf] Very well, thank you. Are the negotiations at a crisis?

[Kanafani] I am sure you have heard about this. I regret to say that the negotiations have suffered a setback in the last 15 minutes despite the many efforts by the Palestinian delegation and President Yasir 'Arafat so that we can start implementing the second stage of the Palestinian [as heard] redeployment and the elections. However, the Israeli side does not give the Palestinian side any opportunity to achieve this. There are stands that do not serve the peace process and the issue of redeployment. They also do not serve the question of confidence-building between the two sides. You know that new things crop up every day about which we know nothing. If you add to all of this that there is not enough time, the difficulty of completing paper work, and the need for reviewal, we can say that the situation here is very difficult. I wanted to talk to you before you hear news agencies reports that could blow the issue out of proportion. What took place is that the president walked out of the meeting room and returned to his residence on the ninth floor, and that he is holding consultations with his brothers and colleagues. Immediately after, members from the Israeli delegation arrived. 'Arafat met with them. The Palestinian delegation continues to make efforts so that we can sign this agreement, which has taken up much time. We hope we can patch things up this time and go back to the negotiations.

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[Khalaf] You said new subjects emerged. What are the new subjects that irritated the Palestinian party?

[Kanafani] Subjects related to the movement of the Palestinian security forces in the Palestinian areas, the implementation of the agreement, and redeployment—subjects, which as I said, are new to us. Intensive attempts are being made to reach agreement.

[Khalaf] How do you evaluate these talks? Is there hope of returning to the negotiating table?

[Kanafani] We hope so. The Palestinian party is determined to reach agreement because this agreement is beneficial not only to us, but also to the Israelis, our neighbors in the region, and the entire world. We cannot disregard the Palestinian people's legitimate aspiration for independence, and this is an historic opportunity to achieve this through peace. We will continue to try until we reach agreement.

[Khalaf] Could any delay or postponement today mean a delay in signing in Washington next week?

[Kanafani] The president and the members of the Palestinian delegation are negotiating with the Israeli delegation as we speak. We hope that any delay will be temporary. However, no matter what happens and despite any delay or postponement, the two parties must finally reach an agreement that is fair to both parties and that can be implemented and defended before our masses.

[Khalaf] Thank you, Marwan Kanafani, adviser and official spokesman of President Yasir 'Arafat.

Kanafani Notes 'Door Is Not Closed'

NC2409105095 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1005 GMT 24 Sep 95

[Report by Muhammad Husayn in Taba]

[FBIS Translated Text] Marwan Kanafani, official spokesman for Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, held a news conference in Taba at noon today, in which he pointed out that the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations have collapsed. He explained that some problems are facing the talks.

Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres held talks that continued from last evening through this morning in an attempt to reach an agreement on the second phase of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles.

The talks entered their ninth day today. The two sides have not reached an agreement that responds to the desires and ambitions of either party.

Speaking at the news conference, Kanafani said:

[Being recording] [Kanafani] I regret to tell you that the Palestinian-Israeli talks have met with another collapse. The president ['Arafat] emerged from the meeting hall in a clearly alarmed state. The Palestinian delegation has also left the meeting hall.

Two sets of reasons have made it hard to reach an agreement. But before that, let me say that as a Palestinian delegation we came here to reach an agreement. We want to reach an agreement. We want to initial an agreement right now. But, as I said, there are two reasons. The first is that time is short and there are complicated procedures involved in reading, comparing, rereading, and approving the texts. Moreover, there are reasons resulting from the Israeli side's refusal to show any flexibility on the issues the Palestinian side is discussing with a lot of flexibility. The flexibility we are talking about concerns the swift implementation of the agreement. We did not come here to reach an agreement that would take months on end to be implemented.

Anyway, this stoppage is not final and the door is not completely closed in the face of the peace process and the implementation of the second phase of the agreement. At this moment I can say that we can still reach an agreement in the next few hours if the Israeli side shows the necessary flexibility and courage.

[Unidentified correspondent] If the negotiations collapse today, God forbid, when do you expect them to resume?

[Kanafani] We do not want these negotiations to collapse. The Palestinian delegation will do everything necessary and possible in order to reach an agreement. But no agreement will be forced on us just because time is short, since the agreement is more important than time and because it involves people's lives, the future of the Palestinian people, and the [word indistinct] the Palestinian areas in the West Bank, Hebron, and others.

We want an agreement that is complete, clear, and binding so that we can avoid making the same mistakes we made in the previous agreements. Some issues were left out of these agreements and Israel has not implemented them until now. [end recording]

Ladies and gentlemen, we will keep you posted on progress in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations here in Taba in our newscasts.

Consultations Held To Contain Crisis

NC2409094195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0915 GMT 24 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Taba, 24 Sep (MENA) — A Palestinian source close to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has stated that talks between 'Arafat and Israeli

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Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres have been broken off since 1100 Cairo local time.

President 'Arafat left the meeting angrily. The source did not explain the main reason for this crisis.

Asked whether the issue of the release of Palestinian detainees was the reason, the source said: Not that alone; there are several other things.

The source stated that consultations are being held at the highest level between President Husni Mubarak, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, 'Arafat, and Shim'on Peres to overcome the crisis facing the negotiations in their last hours.

The talks were resumed at 1000 this morning in an optimistic climate after a two-hour recess, as the phrasing committees cochaired by Sa'ib 'Urayqat, local government minister in the Palestinian Authority, and Yo'el Singer, legal adviser at the Israeli Foreign Ministry, were continuing their work.

'Decisive' Peres-Arafat Meeting in Progress

TA2409103295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 24 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Shim'on Peres and Yasir 'Arafat are holding a decisive meeting that will determine whether an interim agreement will be signed. Earlier 'Arafat met with Major General Ilan Biran and Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the controversy is over freedom of movement for the Palestinian Police through Area B — namely, the Palestinian Police ability to move from one location to another within an area which has no territorial contiguity. In addition, there seems to be an argument on the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment date.

Yasir 'Arafat's spokesman Marwan Kanafani said at a news conference that the Palestinians do not want to leave issues unresolved. He added that U.S. coordinator Dennis Ross had intervened in the crisis by speaking to Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'] on the telephone. According to one version, President Mubarak also called Yasir 'Arafat.

Agreement Reportedly To Be Initialed

TA2409114495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 24 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An agreement has been achieved in Taba.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the remarks of Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir and other Israeli delegates indicate that the meeting between Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat produced an agreement. Now the phrasing of the agreement is being completed, and it is expected to be initialed in an hour.

Israel Television Channel 1 will carry the initialing ceremony live from Taba.

Security sources say that the Palestinians negotiators in Taba insisted that no limitations be put on Palestinian Police movements in Israeli-controlled areas of Judaea and Samaria, and that Palestinian policemen should be able to move freely even on roads exclusively under Israeli control. The sources told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that Israel rejects this demand out of hand.

In recent hours, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has held urgent consultations with the Shin Bet chief, who was categorically opposed to the Palestinian demand.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal says the main controversy that held up the agreement in Taba was the prisoner release issue. He says the Palestinians rejected the Israeli insistence on only releasing sick and minor prisoners, as well as prisoners who murdered no Israelis. Minister Shahal told our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky that he does not understand why the issue of Palestinian Police movements in Area B was brought up again, as that issue was solved a long time ago.

Hebron notables demand that Yasir 'Arafat refrain from signing an agreement with Israel because, they claim, it does not solve the problems of Hebron and of the other West Bank cities. Hebron Mayor Mustafa al-Natshah called on the Palestinian Authority not to sign an agreement unless it includes the evacuation of settlers from downtown Hebron. In reply to our correspondent Ron Nesi'el's question, al-Natshah said that while he does not condone violence, he is not certain how his city's residents will react to the agreement.

Jewish settlement leaders in Hebron and Qiryat Arba' convened a meeting, after which they told our correspondent they would take practical action to foil the implementation of the agreement.

Peres, 'Arafat To Initial Agreement

JN2409120295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1120 GMT 24 Sep 95

[Report from the "With the Midday Events" feature]

[FBIS Translated Text] Before proceeding with our program, Hasan Abu-Zayid, our correspondent to the Taba talks, tells us that the meeting between Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Palestinian Authority head Yasir 'Arafat ended a short while ago. Preparations are

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under way to initial the agreement on the second phase of the Oslo agreement at around 1400 [1200 GMT] today. Israeli television will carry live the proceedings of the signing ceremony from Taba. We also will be with you in a live transmission to broadcast the proceedings of the signing ceremony from Taba. The agreement will be finalized in the U.S. capital on 28 September.

Quray', Savir Expected To Sign Accord

NC2409114895 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 24 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Our correspondent in Taba has reported that the agreement on expanding the Palestinian-Israeli self-rule will be signed in a short while.

Ahmad Quray', chief Palestinian negotiator, will sign for the Palestinian side, while Uri Savir will sign for the Israeli side.

The agreement will be implemented 10 days after the final signing in Washington.

'Arafat Gives Address at Signing Ceremony

NC2409130995 London MBC Television in Arabic 1220 GMT 24 Sep 95

[Speech by Yasir 'Arafat at the ceremony for the initialing of the Oslo B accord at the Taba Hilton Hotel — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ladies and gentlemen, after days of arduous effort, much discussion, and negotiation, we will now sign an agreement permitting an immediate beginning of the implementation of the second phase of the Declaration of Principles.

On this occasion I would like to thank all those who contributed to the success of these negotiations: President Husni Mubarak, on whose territory in Taba the negotiations are taking place, the two sponsor countries of the peace process, and the U.S. officials who made a huge effort with us by day and night until we reached this agreement.

I also thank the members of the two delegations. A special thanks should be addressed to Prime Minister Rabin and Foreign Minister Peres and all their aides, who made a huge effort, which made this occasion possible.

Any agreement, no matter how good, cannot succeed without good intentions, meticulous and faithful implementation, and positive commitment to this peace to which we constantly aspire.

On this occasion and from this place, I address our best greetings to our detainees, our POW's, and wounded. I assure them that the dawn of liberty will inevitably come.

I also greet the pious martyrs' families.

I also offer congratulations to the Israeli people on the occasion of their New Year, Shana Tova [last two words in Hebrew]. We will seek to make the new year one of real peace among the region's nations for the sake of our children's and their children's future.

This agreement paves the way for the region's future, a future which we hope will be a real beginning for a new era in which the Palestinian people will live sovereign and free in their country without fear and be able again to play their natural role in concert with the rest of the region's and world's nations to create a new Middle East in which coexistence, peace, security, and tranquillity prevail and the signs of sorrow and occupation end forever.

I thank you all and wish you success.

Thank you very much, Mr. Foreign Minister. [applause]

Peres Speaks at Ceremony

TA2409132595 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1220 GMT 24 Sep 95

[Speech by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres at the ceremony for the initialing of the Oslo B accord at the Taba Hilton Hotel — live, in English]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] We went through seven days and seven nights that were crowning a year and a half of negotiations between the representatives of the Palestinian people and ourselves. I think both parties knew perfectly well that we have to do an impossible job to overcome objective contradictions, to handle a great deal of worries and suspicions to save the lives of people on both sides, and to offer a credible future for the younger generation. I want to thank the Egyptian Government, the president, the foreign minister, for the facilities they have provided us for these negotiations. I want to thank Chairman 'Arafat that carried with great perseverance the role of a leader that has to make decisions. I want to thank Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin with whom I have worked throughout those days in a very close and comradely manner, remembering that we are carrying a great burden and responsibility to our people. I want to thank the teams. We have one team that goes out already permanently, and that is Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'] and Uri Savir. No matter what will happen to our people, they will always find a way to pave a road that will overcome the difficulties and

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lead to the future. I want to thank Yo'el Singer and Sa'ib 'Urayqat that for the last two days and two nights worked endlessly, with great talent and understanding. I want to thank General Ilan Biran who started as a general and who ends up as a diplomat that has to face the very strong positions of 'Abd-Rabbuh, and I want to thank Oren Shahor. General Shahor is in charge of the administration, and I see here many other persons who played an extremely important role and a responsible role. Before Gen. Biran took over, for a long period of time it was General 'Uzi Dayan who represented the army, and he did such a great job that the chairman called him 'Uzi, and General Yahya, 'Abd-al-Yahya, so we have a long list of names.

Ladies and gentlemen, let's face it. What we were doing over those days and weeks, what we are doing today is not normal political or economic enterprise; it is history in the real meaning of the word. It is a tremendous attempt to bring people that were born in the same cradle and that were fighting in the same fronts to agree on the new future. On our side are many mothers and fathers and children who suffered tremendously, and on the Palestinian side too, there are many people who paid with their lives, their fortunes, their freedom, and we really feel that the Lord has offered us a real opportunity to change the course of hopelessness and desperation and hatred and blood into something more promising, more noble, more humane. For us the Jewish people, it is an extremely moving day. We are on the eve of a new year, Rosh Hashanah. I thank you very much for greeting us in the Hebrew language, and may I say on behalf of Israel, what we did and what we are doing is out of our free choice. Nobody forced us. It is a historic choice and moral choice, an extended hand to the future, an extended hand to our neighbors. I want to wish all of you and your families, your wives, your children, your parents a happy new year. I can say in Arabic kull 'amm wa antum bikhayr [Arabic for happy new year], and let's have antum bikhayr and the shanah tova [Hebrew for happy new year] as a new beginning in this area in the relations between our two people. Thank you very much.

Further Details on Agreement Reported

TA2409134295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 24 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the Palestinians will undertake to abolish those clauses in the Palestinian Covenant that call for the annihilation of the State of Israel within two months of the appointment of the Palestinian Council. Palestinian prisoners will be released on three dates: on the day of the official signing of the agreement, Thursday [28 September]; on the eve of the elections in the territories; and in the course of the negotiations over the permanent arrangement. The number of prisoners who will be released on each date has not yet been concluded. Also resolved was the disagreement on the issue of supervising the movements of the Palestinian police through the areas that will remain under IDF [Israel Defense Forces] control. The sides will undertake to protect the holy sites and to respect the freedom of worship of the Jews, Muslims, Christians, and Samaritans. Responsibility for the holy places in Judaea and Samaria will be transferred to the Palestinians, except Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem and Joseph's Tomb in Nabulus for which there will be special arrangements.

President 'Ezer Weizman welcomed the initialing, expressing the hope that all fears about the agreement will prove to be false.

Palestinian Sources Explain Pre-Signing Dispute

NC2409134295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 24 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Taba, 24 Sep (MENA)—Sources in the Palestinian delegation to the Taba negotiations have shed light on the problem of the maps, which created a crisis this morning between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. The crisis prompted Egyptian and U.S. mediation to solve the differences and resume the negotiations in the afternoon.

The sources said the differences were over the plan for the withdrawal and redeployment of the Israeli forces in the West Bank, which was divided into three areas — A, B, and C.

The sources said Area A covers seven Palestinian cities in the West Bank: Janin, Qalqilyah, Tulkarm, Nabulus, Ramallah, Bethlehem, and Hebron. The Israeli forces will pull out of Hebron during the last stage. An Israeli force will be in charge of protecting the Jewish families in the city, which will be under the Palestinian Authority [PA].

Area B covers more than 400 Palestinian villages. Like area A, it will be administered by, and placed under the jurisdiction of, the PA.

Area C represents the uninhabited regions between the cities and villages, and here lies the dispute. The PA wants a right to a security presence in these regions, while the Israelis fear they may serve as hotbeds for what the Israelis call the staging of terrorist operations.

The agreement also stipulates that redeployment of the Israeli forces will start within two months of the signing

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and continue for six months. During this period, four roads will be built outside Palestinian cities to enable the Israelis to cross without going through PA territory.

Accord Implementation To Start in 2 Weeks

JN2409143095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 24 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A Palestinian-Israeli agreement on the implementation of the second phase of the Declaration of Principles was signed in Taba a short while ago. The signing ceremony was attended by President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. Ahmad Quray', minister of economy and trade and head of the Palestinian delegation, signed the agreement for the Palestinian side, while Uri Savir, Israeli Foreign Ministry director general, signed for the Israeli side.

In an address prior to the signing of agreement, President Yasir 'Arafat said the agreement constitutes a real beginning for the Palestinian people and the start of the upcoming dawn of freedom.

Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, minister of culture and arts, said after the signing of the agreement that the implementation of the agreement will start within two weeks after the signing. He said the implementation will starting in Janin, and will end no later than six months from now, so that the legislative elections will take place next spring. 'Abd-Rabbuh said that there is a comprehensive agreement to release the prisoners in three stages. He said that 1,500 detainees will be released this week, while a second batch will be released in the preliminary stages of the implementation of the agreement. The rest of the detainees, he said, will be released at the beginning of the final status negotiations.

Fu'ad Busaysu, governor of the Palestinian Monetary Authority, said that the extension of national authority to the rest of Palestinian territories will help establish political stability and security, and will encourage national and foreign investment.

PA's 'Abd-Rabbuh Explains Taba Agreement

NC2409150395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1355 GMT 24 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Taba, 24 Sep (MENA)—Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, minister of culture and information with the Palestinian Authority [PA], has said that with the initialing of an agreement today, the redeployment of the Israeli forces in the West Bank will take about six months, and elections will take place in early spring.

With this we launch the free Palestinian homeland and open the door to the final stage of negotiations to establish our national independent entity and achieve genuine peace in the region, he said.

In a press statement following the initialing of the agreement today, 'Abd-Rabbuh said: We are witnessing a historic development. The agreement is a step forward despite many flaws from our point of view, but everything has its flaws.

He said the negotiations were arduous, tough, and involved many details. All aspects were discussed in their minute details, he said. He added: The agreement does not contain everything we want; the basic elements were deferred. But the agreement opens the way for the national independent Palestinian entity, for building the first independent Palestinian state.

On Palestinian prisoners, 'Abd-Rabbuh said that under the agreement, all prisoners will be released in three stages. He explained that the first group, consisting of 1,500 male and 28 female prisoners, will be released within two days; that is, on the eve of the signing of the agreement in Washington. A second group will be released when the redeployment starts, and the third group when the final stage begins.

As regards Hebron, 'Abd-Rabbuh said: Some points remained unresolved and will be discussed after six months. But it was established that Hebron is a Palestinian city in its entirety. Israel acknowledged this. The redeployment covers Hebron and involves temporary arrangements. This is a good and right beginning although it does not fulfill all hopes and wishes. Noting that things will be dealt with in two stages, he said: This is part of the complications which we must bear.

Quray' on 'Independent Palestinian State'

JN2409163795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 24 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian-Israeli agreement on the implementation of the second part of the Declaration of Principles was signed in Taba this afternoon. The signing ceremony was attended by President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. Ahmad Quray', minister of economy and trade and head of the Palestinian delegation who signed the agreement for the Palestinian side, has asserted that the agreement has laid the foundation stone for a Palestinian state. The following details are contained in the following statement he has made to the Voice of Palestine:

[Begin recording] [Announcer Yusuf al-Qazzaz] Ahmad Quray', Abu-'Ala', chief Palestinian negotiator and minister of economy and trade: I would like to begin by saying God be praised for your recovery, Abu-'Ala'

[Quray'] I wish you well. Thank you.

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[Al-Qazzaz] Generally speaking: How would you evaluate the agreement on the second part of the Declaration of Principles?

[Quray'] Undoubtedly, this agreement does not reflect our best hopes or ambitions. It is an interim agreement on an interim period. It is an interim deal. We only wished that this agreement would lay down the basic foundations for a future phase, for a final status, honestly and clearly, for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, God willing. It is my assessment that this agreement, which will bring all West Bank cities, villages, and rural areas under the control of the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian leadership, has opened the doors wide for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. The agreement provides for, among other things, a troop redeployment, which is a withdrawal from all West Bank cities, villages, camps, and hamlets. These areas now constitute a significant percentage of the territory, almost 31 percent of the West Bank territory. This is a first step and a solid and true basis. [end recording]

In an address prior to the signing of agreement, President Yasir 'Arafat said the agreement constitutes a real beginning for the Palestinian people and the start of the upcoming dawn of freedom.

For his part, Minister of Culture Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh said that the implementation of the agreement will start within two weeks after the signing. He added the implementation will starting in Janin, and will end within a maximum of six months, so that the Palestinian legislative elections may be held next spring.

In a statement a short while ago, 'Abd-Rabbuh added that there is an integrated agreement to release the Palestinian prisoners held in the occupation authorities' jails in accordance with a specific timetable over three stages. He said that 1,500 detainees will be released this week, while a second batch will be released at the beginning of the implementation of the agreement. The rest of the detainees, he said, will be released when the final status negotiations begin in May 1996.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin held a news conference a short while ago, in which he explained the details of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement on the implementation of the second part of the Declaration of Principles. Rabin said that his government seeks to maintain the Jewish identity of the State of Israel living in peace next to a Palestinian entity.

For his part, U.S. President Bill Clinton welcomed the signing of the Taba agreement at noon today. He congratulated the Palestinian and Israeli peoples on the signing of the agreement.

Meanwhile, Israeli rightist opposition parties condemned the signing of the agreement in Taba. Israeli President Weizman welcomed the signing of the agreement and hoped that all fears regarding the implementation of the agreement will be dispelled.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres described the Taba agreement as a historic accomplishment that will bring the best possible benefits to future generations.

Quray' Details Parts of Agreement

NC2409190195 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1805 GMT 24 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza, 24 Sep (MENA)—Ahmad Quray', minister of economy and trade in the Palestinian Authority [PA] and head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, said that the agreement initialed today is a very important step toward setting up the Palestinian state and transferring the powers of the PA for the first time to the West Bank, including its security and civilian privileges in all fields.

Quray' said in an interview with MENA that the agreement gives the Palestinians the right to hold democratic elections for the first time in history. This would never have happened had this agreement not been reached.

He added that the elections will consist of one set of votes for the president of the PA and another set for the legislative council consisting of 82 members. The council will then elect its own president. In this way, the three powers—legislative, executive, and judicial—would be realized and these are the foundations for establishing a state.

Ahmad Quray' went on to say that they reached satisfactory results which could lead to releasing all the detainees in batches. The first batch will start being released as of today and will go on until the agreement is signed. The second batch will be released before elections are held and the third batch before reaching agreement over the final status.

Abu-'Ala' noted that the Israeli withdrawals will take place in two stages. The first consists of redeployment of the Israeli forces in 31 percent of the West Bank area over a period of three months. After that, full withdrawal will take place from all the villages and remaining areas over a period of 18 months in 3 stages of 6 months each.

He added that this makes us confirm that the features of a Palestinian state have become clear and that democratic life has crystallized in the presence of the PA's institutions and ministries on all the Palestinian territories in the West Bank.

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He added that there are special issues regarding Hebron which have been left for discussion during the negotiations which will take place before agreement is reached over the final status, such as the status of the Ibrahimi Mosque and the old town. Temporary Israeli security arrangements have been agreed on, but they will not be permanent.

Ahmad Quray' said that with regard to Hebron, we have not got everything we want, although we did get a recognition that it is a purely Arab town. Regarding the Ibrahimi Mosque, we did not agree with the Israeli viewpoint. It is a purely Islamic mosque over which negotiations will take place at a later stage during the coming 6 months.

He noted that the PA council of ministers will meet tomorrow in Gaza to approve the agreement. He said: We will be traveling to the United States to sign the agreement at the White House in an international celebration that will be attended by President Husni Mubarak, King Husayn of Jordan, and the foreign ministers of Morocco, Qatar, Tunisia, and the European countries.

Abu-'Ala' pointed out that he feels very well now that the agreement has been signed.

'Abd-al-Shafi: Agreement 'Step Forward'

NC2409172195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1630 GMT 24 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza, 24 Sep (MENA)—Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, leader of the Palestinian Democratic Building Movement, has said that the Palestinian people now need national unity more than ever, especially after the signing of the new phased agreement, to be able to confront current and future challenges.

In a statement to MENA, he said the agreement that was signed today is a step forward. He added: But what matters is the final status, and we have to prepare ourselves for a long struggle to achieve our objective; namely, independence and the establishment of the independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

He stressed that the Palestinian people will not abandon their right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state at a time when Israel's practices conflict with this objective. We have to prepare ourselves for painstaking difficulties along the road of peace, he said.

Peres on Details of Accord, Prisoners

TA2409172495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 24 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says that Palestinian prisoners with blood on their hands will not be released. He said this to reporters upon leaving the initialing ceremony. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that according to the criteria agreed upon, female prisoners, old prisoners, and prisoners under 18 years of age will be released. These criteria will determine the number of prisoners who will be released at a later stage. The foreign ministers said that at the peak of today's crisis, when he was holding a tete-a-tete meeting with 'Arafat, he had told him that he would not leave the room before an agreement was reached between the two of them. At the same time, Peres added, it was clear to him a few days ago that an agreement would be reached.

As for the disagreement about the manner in which the Palestinian police will cross from area A to area B, 'Arafat demanded that a certain word in the agreement be replaced. The foreign minister believes that 'Arafat made a mistake there since the word 'Arafat preferred obliged the Palestinian police to have greater coordination than the previous word entailed.

PA's 'Urayqat on Agreement, Next Moves

NC2409191995 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1745 GMT 24 Sep 95

[Telephone interview with Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, PA minister of local government, "in his car on his way from Taba to Gaza," by unidentified correspondent, in Cairo from "The Talking Newspaper" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Correspondent] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government with the Palestinian Authority [PA], what took place in Taba today was undoubtedly a major achievement and a step toward the realization of the Palestinian dream. How great is this step as far as the Palestinians are concerned?

['Urayqat] The agreement is the second and last phase in the transitional period. It covers all the elements that had to be addressed in the transitional period, and it paves the way for negotiations on the permanent solution. The agreement establishes Palestinian authority on all populated areas in the West Bank, and it underscores the transfer of all Palestinian territory, except for those that will be addressed in the final-status negotiations, to the jurisdiction of the Palestinian council after 18 months of [words indistinct]. The agreement also paves the way for the election of an 82-member legislative council and

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a chairman as an executive power. So we will have a separation of powers. The chairman of the Palestinian Authority will be directly elected by the people, while the president of the council will be elected by the council members, who themselves will be elected by the people. Also under the agreement, Jerusalem residents will participate in the polls by casting their votes, running in the election, organizing election campaigns, and opening polling centers.

The agreement is very close to the Declaration of Principles that was signed in Washington. Indeed, it goes beyond it in some points; namely, the separation of powers. The Declaration of Principles provided for the election of one council with one power—members who would exercise both legislation and executive powers. But now we will have separate executive, legislative, and judicial powers. This really opens the way for the Palestinian dream. I do not want to say that the agreement meets all Palestinian demands or ambitions, but I say that under the circumstances and given the exceptions mentioned in the Declaration of Principles, this agreement takes us directly to 4 May 1996, the date when the real negotiations over the final status will take place. Those negotiations will address the issues of Jerusalem, settlements, refugees, borders, foreign security, and international relations. These things will lead us, in less than three years God willing, to the stage of establishing our Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

[Correspondent] Dr. 'Urayqat, does the initialing of the agreement today mean that all issues raised at this stage have now been closed?

['Urayqat] Yes. All files have been closed. The agreement was initialed today, and it will be officially signed by the Israeli Government and the PLO on 28 September. In addition to the cosponsors — the United States and Russia — Egypt and the European Union will also sign the agreement. Egypt effectively sponsored the peace process, and the European Union is playing a major economic role in helping our people prepare for the elections.

[Correspondent] What will the next step after the signing be?

['Urayqat] The redeployment of the Israeli forces will start, and it will continue for six months. The Israeli military forces will pull out of seven Palestinian governorates to be replaced by Palestinian security forces. This process is due to begin less than two weeks after the signing of the agreement, and it will be completed in March. The elections will then take place. [passage omitted]

'Urayqat: Prisoners To Be Freed in 3 Batches

JN2409201695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Local Government Minister Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat has asserted that under the Taba agreement, the Palestinian prisoners will be released in three stages. The first batch, he said, would be released on Thursday, the day on which the agreement will be signed, and is to include all female prisoners, those who have served two-thirds of their prison terms, and those who are more than 50 years of age.

In a statement to Jericho Voice of Palestine a short while ago, 'Urayqat said that the Taba agreement stipulated that 31 percent of Palestinian territories will come under the jurisdiction of the Palestinian National Authority. This area, he added, will include all Palestinian cities and villages, as well as 83 hamlets in the various Palestinian governorates.

Dr. 'Urayqat also asserted that the Israeli Army will redeploy in the city of Hebron, that 400 Palestinian policemen will enter the city, and that all the civilian powers in the city will be transferred to the National Authority. Dr. 'Urayqat also said that implementation of the agreement will begin two weeks after its signing in Washington and continue for a period of six months. Dr. 'Urayqat then disclosed that the Taba agreement also stipulated the removal of all military checkpoints from Palestinian territories and that no Israeli soldier would remain in any Palestinian city or village.

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Algeria

Dembri Says 100 Observers To Monitor Elections

LD2209204395 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 22 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In Algeria Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri has stated that about 100 international observers will supervise the presidential election next November. The observers will be sent by the Arab League, the United Nations, and the OAU. [passage omitted]

OAU Delegation Arrives To Monitor Elections

LD2509081695 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 25 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] An OAU assessment delegation led by Daniel Antonio, assistant secretary general in charge of the OAU's political department, arrived yesterday in Algeria within the framework of the OAU's participation in monitoring the presidential elections, the first round of which is due to be held on 16 November. [passage omitted]

Citizens Residing in France Allowed To Vote

LD2209190795 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 22 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The date of the first round of the presidential elections, set for 16 November, has been brought forward by 120 hours, i.e. five days, before the voting date for the Algerian citizens living abroad.

This is what the Algerian embassy in France disclosed in a statement issued today, adding that according to the stipulations of the law the date for holding the elections is extended from 11-16 November from 0800 to 1900 [French local time] at the headquarters of the general consulates, and the Algerian consulates in France. [passage omitted]

HAMAS Presidential Candidate Interviewed

LD2409180595 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1224 GMT 24 Sep 95

[Interview with Shaykh Mahfoud Nahnah, HAMAS presidential candidate, by correspondents Mohamed Chellouche and Saadeddine Fadil; place and date not given: from the "Presidential Elections" program — live or recorded; correspondents not identified in text]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Correspondent] Welcome Mr. Mahfoud Nahnah. Many of those who announced their intentions to run for presidency considered the condition of collecting 75,000 signatures as a great hindrance. However, it has been circulated that you have fulfilled this condition, is this true?

[Nahnah] [passage omitted] The issue of collecting signatures has great importance. Therefore, our proposal was not to collect 75,000 signatures only, but 100,000-120,000 signatures. Some might ask why?

[Correspondent, interrupting] You are an exception compared to the reservations voiced by other parties.

[Nahnah] Political figures and party activists have the right to express their views and proposals. However, we see that due to the importance of the position of presidential presidency and that the population in Algeria is about 28 million, to reach 30 million by the time the president's term in office expires, so we believe that the president should not only obtain one, two, or 10,000 — especially as Algeria has great capabilities and the presidential presidency has great responsibilities on the national, Maghreban, and international levels — but more, so that the race to this position, which the Islamic shari'ah calls greater or public jurisdiction [al-wilayat al-kubra or al-'amah], could have a great role in keeping security and stability and getting rid of anything that will disturb the life of the citizen.

Nevertheless, we have entered the race ring and we respect any one who has presented his views whether through blacking out and belittling, or by deepening the differences or exaggeration. What is important is that our movement, through its activists and all the citizens in the country, have expressed some of their trust through the signatures that we have received and those that we are about to receive. The figure might be more or less [than the 75,000], but the process is continuing in a positive way.

[Correspondent] Were there any obstacles in collecting the signatures?

[Nahnah] In fact, obstacles are part of Algerian policy. Some of the officials working at the administration have known new or old political affiliation to a point where we cannot absolve all the administration from some falsification, constriction, blacking out, and hindering people from filling in forms [word indistinct]. However, we did our best to transcend these false obstacles.

[Correspondent] We will return later to the role of the administration. Let us now deal with the conditions. Mr. Mahfoud Nahnah, everybody knows that the current security situation is difficult. It was easy for Hamas to fulfill or attempt to fulfill these conditions. Is it possible for us to know how Hamas dealt with this situation, particularly with regard to its movements, contacts, and presence in most provinces?

[Nahnah] First, when you say that they are difficult, we agree on that, but these conditions are not impossible. [passage omitted]

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[Correspondent] Shaykh Mahfoud Nahnah, were you able to cover all the provinces as far as the operation of gathering signatures is concerned?

[Nahnah] In the special meetings of the Movement, we stressed that if we did not achieve a geographic and human coverage of the whole territory, we would be the first movement to withdraw from the political arena. We want our candidacy to be throughout the whole national territory and at the level of the pure Algerian national heritage. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Talking about national representation, has Hamas'[Islamic Society Movement] action in this direction been dependent only on the party's structures, or have other nonparty member associations had a role to play?

[Nahnah] We would like to be informed by the public opinion, the media, the politicians, and the masses, whether there have been other elements apart from the Hamas activists.

[Correspondent] What I mean by other associations is the Al-Irshad association.

[Nahnah] Never. The Al-Irshad association is governed by Clause 39 not 40. As far as we are concerned, we are active under Clause No. 40, as a political association with a national dimension. Our activists work throughout the Algerian territory. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Well, have you tried within the framework of your movement to attract a base that is well known for its loyalty to other trends, of course within the framework of collecting signatures, because...

[Nahnah, interrupting] In our conviction, all Algerians are currently interested in getting out of the crisis, whether or not they were members of parties. Thus, when our movement entered the Algerian arena to collect signatures, it frankly received signatures from the all trends, even the trends that...

[Correspondent, interrupting] Even from the boycotting parties?

[Nahnah] Even from the boycotting, opposed, absent, forced to be absent, witnessing, and present parties. The people want to get out of the crisis, and I am astonished by the those who say: Let this crisis intensify. As our proverb says: Let whatever happens happen. This is unreasonable. We want to get out of the crisis with the minimum of cost.

[Correspondent] Mr. Mahfoud Nahnah, it is said that the role of the woman party activist in Hamas had a great impact in gathering signatures. Is it possible to know how the mobilization operation was?

[Nahnah] Is the woman who is a Hamas member Algerian or not? This is a question I put to you.

[Correspondent] Naturally, she is Algerian.

[Nahnah] If she is Algerian, why deprive her from having an electoral and political role. On the contrary, we should consider this a noticeable progress in the Algerian political electoral process. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Mr. Mahfoud Nahnah, let us move to another point, which is the stance of the administration with regard to the elections. The administration has a decisive role in the important operations and particularly in the presidential elections. There is some doubt with regard to the neutrality of the administration and political parties are concerned about it. Is it possible to know the stance of Hamas in dealing with the administration? Were there obstacles, neutrality, or were things facilitated?

[Nahnah] In our opinion, the Algerian administration is mostly characterized by integrity. However, it is no secret that sometimes a governor, a head of a council, or a mayor has some affiliation to some party or ideological trends who does his best by one means or another to bring down the operation of gathering signatures.

In our opinion, these kind of people, who want to spoil the gathering of signatures — for us or the others either by taking away voting cards, threats, or registration — in reality violate the recommendations of Liamine Zeroual as head of state, not as a candidate. These violate the recommendations of the head of state and the principle on which the administration is based. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Has Hamas encountered any abuses or obstructions ?

[Nahnah] Of course. Only this morning I received reports from one of the provinces that a group of appointees in a given administration have been preventing members of the public from endorsing some political figures. At times they are even taking the voting cards from their owners who are told they will only get them back the following day. This happened today in Oued Rhiou, where cards were taken away from their owners who were told they will receive them the following day.

[Correspondent] In fact this is in violation...

[Nahnah, interrupting] I think that those responsible are either not aware of the law, and in this case we forgive them, or they are aware of the law and are flouting it. In this case, the authorities must make the necessary decision.

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[Correspondent] Has your representative in the National Independent Commission [in charge of monitoring the elections] expressed such reservations?

[Nahnah] Naturally. Today, the start of the week, or Sunday, there will be contacts with the independent commission, the authorities, and the Constitutional Council, because we want our movement to enter the arena, the arena of political competition and not conflict, I hate the word conflict, in a climate of impartiality and in the framework of the preservation of what is left of the spirit of the Constitution, and what is left of the spirit of the law. We know that the law has been flouted and the Constitution has been flouted, but we will make do with what is left. That is it.

[Correspondent] [passage omitted] It seems from the process of collecting signatures that you are one of the main candidates, how do you see the role of the National Independent Commission after that process finishes?

[Nahnah] The National Independent Commission should not go beyond the Constitution nor the Constitutional Council. The commission should have relations with the latter and with all the competent institutions in order to hinder those who want to ruin the elections. [passage omitted]

We wish the members of the independent commission to carry out their responsibilities without going beyond their mandates, have internal regulations, and deal fairly with appeals and complaints. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Let us return to the organizational aspect. Hamas is known to have a tradition in organizing rallies and meetings. It is possible that this aspect will be a factor of success for your electoral campaign under the current security conditions?

[Nahnah] We are aware, as citizens, that security conditions are not easy, but they are not impossible. If I may say this: Last week, on Thursday, I had meetings in Ouargla and Hassi Messaoud. The meetings were recorded by the Algerian television, but at the end of the day no mention was made of this on television. Therefore, I feel that there are no equal opportunities. When one of the other candidates goes to another town, good luck to him, the Algerian television gives him publicity and informs public opinion. Never mind. We will not dwell on these matters.

We do have a tradition in meetings and rallies with people. I believe that since the difficulty exists, the impartial media, such as the national radio and television, will have to play a major role in conveying the reality of the Algerian society so that we can achieve democracy where impartiality prevails. We already know that we cannot have a 100 percent impartiality, but if we raise it to 60, 70, and 80 percent, we will consider this as one of the great successes. Even in the developed world there is no such thing as elections that are 100 percent honest.

However, we say that through the heavy or light media [as heard] and through the rallies we hold, and I tell you this: We are ready to go to the hotbeds of tension to hold our rallies. Because these hotbeds are on Algerian soil and the moderately tense and quiet areas are also on Algerian soil. The next president of the republic will have to be president over hotbeds of tension, quiet areas, and moderately tense areas alike.

[Correspondent] Let us continue discussing the election campaign, which is set to start in a few days. Reda Malek, a candidate running for the presidency, stressed two days ago in Constantine the necessity of avoiding the use of religion for political aims. This statement may be a hint to your movement, in view of the fact that it has preachers and men who are active in this field. Is this not causing some embarrassment to you?

[Nahnah] Are we Muslim or non-Muslim Algerians? If we are Muslims...[pauses] If you think someone is taking advantage of his position as an imam or a teacher at a university or in a mosque where he calls upon people to vote for him and his friends, then, we do not agree with this. We are telling the public at large that, should they come across one of the members of the movement calling people to vote for Nahnah from inside the mosque, tell him that he is wrong, he should not be accepted, and he can be removed from his functions. This message is addressed to the citizens. If you tell me not to talk about the holy Koran, our authenticity, religion, glory, and heritage, then why not avoid talking about Emir Abdelkader, Bouamama, or Mokrani or the revolution of Ouled Sidi Shaykh [all 18th century leaders]. This is not logical. We are Muslim Algerians.

If there are people who fear religion and Islam, then I say that they are against us such as those foreign countries that are against religion. How can one be an Algerian person and against Islam? Therefore, we say, first, that what gathers all citizens should not be used for the benefit of a party or a person. Second: This should not be used for partisan purposes. In the same way some people say: Do not use the mosque for partisan purposes, we say: Do not use the administration, the barracks, and the university for partisan purposes. These places belong to all. Thanks.

[Correspondent] Mr. Mahfoud Nahnah, you said in one of your statements that your program is the only one that is comprehensive, outstanding, and based on awareness. Do you not think that this is somewhat an exaggerated self-confidence?

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[Nahnah] We have a program and we would like the Algerian people, at home and abroad, with the Algerian community, to know about it. The Algerian people are free to say that our program is good, excellent, and unique. I think that those who say these things about us are wrong. We do not have, as some have said: A comprehensive and unique program. There is only thing that is unique and that is the Holy Koran. As for the rest, there is what is good and what is not. We are humans and we are not infallible.

Second, in our program we have opened a door that people have often said was closed, namely that of exegesis [interpretation of the Koran to adapt it to modern life]. We are saying that everything must be open to exegesis. Who will be in charge of this exegesis? The experts. We cannot allow someone to deal with exegesis if they do not know anything about religion. We cannot have someone dealing with exegesis if they cannot perform their prayers properly. We cannot have someone deal with agriculture if they do not know anything about agriculture. It should not be the case. You need farmers to deal with agriculture; experts in privatization to deal with this subject; experts in the public sector to deal with this sector; military experts to deal with army affairs, and so on.

[Correspondent] In your declared program you mentioned priorities, among which is to achieve national reconciliation and halt the bloodshed, do you have the means liable to materialize this noble goal?

[Nahnah] The appropriate means — before or after we reach the presidential presidency — will be: Persuasion, argument, talks, dialogue, and negotiations over settling this issue, which has become formidable for the this country and for the neighboring ones. We say that when somebody becomes a president he should have a number of mechanisms and means that facilitate the process of getting out of the circles of decay and hatred. [passage omitted]

Reconciliation has to be clear. Reconciliation does not take place over a trivial matter. [passage omitted]

In our program we have drawn a number of points that facilitate this process. [Passage indistinct] You cannot say that you will eliminate violence from the first day, you need time. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] You said in your political program that you will achieve equal opportunities and improve the social condition. Can this be achieved amid total collapse, fed by tribal practices, favoritism, and (?narrow interest)?

[Nahnah] Listen, we cannot get rid of the village and tribal mentality unless we have a government from all factions, i.e expanding the rule base. Algeria's problem is that it is ruled a by village and one-party mentality. We have to adapt ourselves to the new reality that is expanding the rule base so that the Algerian Government becomes a government with a national dimension, the monopoly of one side, village, or throne should end. We Algerians should help each other. We believe that the government and the legislative body, the parliament, as well as the president have to have a national dimension. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Mr. Mahfoud Nahnah, those who are opposed to the Islamic option link the authenticity concept with extremism and backwardness, while Cheikh Mahfoud Nahnah puts the slogan of authenticity and modernism together? Can you clarify this?

[Nahnah] Briefly, the Japanese have been able to put authenticity and modernism together. They have no problem with this and have reached the top of technological progress, have they not? Why can the Algerians not do this? They have, thanks be to God, all the resources: The human resources are there, and so are the geographical, political, and cultural ones. Therefore, we can get out of the crisis, and we can put authenticity and modernism together. We are not a branch without roots. We are a branch in a blessed tree: Which comes neither from the East nor from the West [Koran verse]; this tree is that of Islam that covers all the T's: Tindouf, Tamanrasset, Tipaza, Tizi Ouzou, Tlemcen. Therefore, we are not suffering from any complex regarding this issue. Whoever says that he does not accept authenticity is wrong, and he who does not accept modernism is wrong too, because whoever says that we should not keep up with our era and with the technological progress, wants to return us to the dark ages. History will not forgive us; it wants us to be developed, civilized, etc.

[Correspondent] Last question: Is Cheikh Mahfoud Nahnah optimistic of the possibility of this important electoral experience succeeding?

[Nahnah] I have a multiple optimism: I am optimistic that the democratic experience will succeed; I am optimistic that the Algerian people will go to the ballot boxes, and this is very important because the Algerian people, after the problems and the sedition it has been through, knows who its friends are and who can get the country out of the crisis with credibility, without lies, and demagoguery. Likewise, the Algerian people can realize the preliminary plan by means of which, together, parties, public figures, society, citizens, men, women, and intellectuals, will take the country out of the crisis. As you see I am very optimistic because Islam

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orders me to be optimistic. Be optimistic, even against all odds [Hadhith: a saying of the Prophet]. Thank you.

Zeroual To Release FIS Leaders 'Soon'

LD2409121095 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1100 GMT 24 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Informed Algerian sources state that the Armed Islamic Group's restraint from terrorism in the past two weeks was the result of an agreement between the authorities and the leaders of the banned Islamic Salvation Front [FIS].

Those sources said that Algerian President Liamine Zeroual will soon issue a presidential decree releasing political prisoners, including Abassi Madani, the banned FIS leader, and his deputy Ali Belhadj.

Security Forces Eliminate 41 'Terrorists'

LD2509073495 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 25 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At the level of the security situation, a statement by the security services said yesterday that their forces succeeded in eliminating 41 terrorists during numerous search operations in the provinces of Boumerdes, Chlef, the capital Algiers, Bouira, and Setif. The security forces also recovered sawn off shot guns, automatic pistols, and significant quantities of ammunition.

Chirac Criticized for Viewing Loans as 'Favor'

LD2309204095 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Between Algeria and France there is more than one story. The latest of these is the result of a statement by French President Jacques Chirac in which he went as far as to talk about France's favor that enabled Algeria avoid an inevitable stifling crisis — as if the assistance given by France to Algeria was not loans which will not be repaid on time. These are French statements which were made at a time when Algeria was getting ready to engage in a new election experiment by which Algeria is striving to lay down the foundations of democracy which is feared by so many countries. Following these statements the Algerian press replied to these interpretations and regarded them as being wrong. In addition to that Algerian diplomacy moved to explain the type of this assistance. [passage omitted]

This assistance which France is talking about is interest-bearing loans — a method used by states and international bodies. These loans are merely burdens to be added to our other burdens. The Algerian state is expected to repay these loans according to a schedule agreed upon by the two sides. Otherwise how can the Elysee forget the method of international treaties and economic agreements?

Statement Assails 'Harmful' Press Report

LD2209203995 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 22 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement published by the Algerian Embassy in Paris today said that an article written in a Paris-based Arabic newspaper contained some reports attributed to [French] Interior Minister Jean-Louis Debre which are harmful to the institutions of the Algerian State. The Embassy noted the categorical denial of the French minister, who learned about the existence of these reports on the evening of 21 September.

The statement added: Thus, we wonder about some attempts at a news blackout and deception of the French public opinion regarding everything which concerns not only Algeria but also the Arab world and Europe in the field of anti-terrorism and everyone who supports it anywhere either directly or under the cover of humanitarianism or within the framework or the so-called thought [as given].

The Embassy noted also that the strange thing about this issue is the fact that the reports attributed to the French interior minister coincided with those published by a source in Tehran, quoting the spokesman of the Tehran mullahs who was considered on the occasion as an expert in democracy and offering his services to France to carry out [mediation] efforts between Algerians.

The statement said at the end: At a time when the Algerian people are preparing, despite all the obstacles put in their way, to consecrate democracy through elections, we cannot but note the increase of attempts by all those who are in collusion with international terrorism and all those who are behind it and the Algerian people request that all these are brought to account.

Russian Official Delivers Message to Dembri

LD2309183295 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Abdelkader Taffar, secretary general of the Foreign Affairs Ministry, has received Andrey Divonin, head of the North Africa and Middle East Desk at the Russian Foreign Ministry, who handed him a message from Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev to his Algerian counterpart Mohamed Salah Dembri. Mr. Divonin paid a working visit to Algeria during which he held talks with officials at the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

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Commentary Expresses 'Total Contempt' for Iran

LD2309213795 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At a time when the Algerian people, who are known for their attachment to national independence, are getting ready to directly exercise their sovereignty through the forthcoming presidential election, and at a time when the great achievements of the government program are moving toward general stability of the country through reforms which are being reflected on the political, economic, and social spheres, and toward emergence from the crisis, the Iranian foreign minister was alone in a statement to the press proposing to France to work with Iran to make the Algerian political parties shake hands with the government in order to hold an election and form a democratic government. Algeria would like to express its total contempt for statements that show the Iranian regime's inclination to interfere in the affairs of others — statements which fortify the stances of circles well-known to political observers, and are considered to be an exercise aimed at diverting attention from the date of the forthcoming presidential election on 16 November.

The outcome of all this is that these statements clearly show Iran's involvement in destabilizing Algeria by encouraging international terrorism and the armed groups operating in the country by supplying them with funds. The Algerian people, at a time when it is expressing its will in democratic, stable, and prosperous economic and social circumstances, cannot but pause at the stupidity of the head of Iranian diplomacy. Algeria which maintains its amity toward the fraternal Iranian people replies to the Iranian authorities by demanding that they respect, first, the concepts which they are trying teach it [Algeria] and organize — if they can — a free and legal expression of views by the Iranian citizens.

Egypt

'Arafat Arrives in Cairo To Brief Mubarak

NC2409184695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1835 GMT 24 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 24 Sep (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Cairo this evening after an agreement on expanding Palestinian self-rule was initialed in Taba today. 'Arafat will brief President Husni Mubarak on the agreement, the steps for implementing it, and the ways for achieving Palestinian sovereignty on Palestinian land.

'Arafat, Mubarak Make Statements

NC2409222795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2143 GMT 24 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 24 Sep (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat expressed thanks in his name and on behalf of the Palestinian people to President Husni Mubarak on the huge efforts his excellency and the government and people of Egypt exerted leading to the initialing of the Taba agreement. 'Arafat said in a statement he gave to the local and international media after the round of talks with President Husni Mubarak this evening at al-Andalus Palace that this is the beginning of the second stage of the Declaration of Principles, which was signed in Washington and Cairo under the sponsorship and supervision of President Mubarak.

The Palestinian president expressed his hope that this agreement will be followed by progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks so that just and comprehensive peace can prevail in the region.

President 'Arafat then directed his words to President Mubarak and said: I wish to apologize to you, Mr. President, because I have burdened you with so much. I used to contact you during every crisis and ask for help from sisterly Egypt. Now, I would like to apologize for that and for the discomfort and worry I caused you throughout the period of negotiations.

President Mubarak then commented saying that he thanks brother Abu-'Ammar. Egypt considers the question of Palestine its own issue. It is a major issue and Egypt is working hard to bolster and support the Palestinian side.

President Mubarak added: We are working very hard with the rest of the brother Arab leaders to support the Palestinian moves and the solutions the Palestinian leadership has already found.

President Mubarak reaffirmed: We consider what the Palestinians have reached at this stage a success for President 'Arafat and the negotiating delegation because they exerted huge, exhausting, and continuous efforts during the period of negotiations which went on for eight days. Yesterday, for example, they started at 2100 and went on throughout the night until 1830 today when agreement was reached.

President Husni Mubarak expressed his hope that implementation will take place in accordance with what was agreed upon. He said: We hope implementation of all agreed upon points will take place without delay so that the matter does not get complicated any further, because the final stage of negotiations will be very difficult. We hope the Palestinians will enter the final stage

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with courage in order to realize a just solution to their cause.

President Mubarak hopes that the Syrian and Lebanese tracks will move forward to realize justice for their case, until we reach a comprehensive and just peace in the region.

During the round of talks which went on for one hour, Presidents Mubarak and 'Arafat reviewed the Palestinian-Israeli agreement which was reached today. The Palestinian president was very keen on meeting with President Mubarak immediately after the signing. During the meeting, President 'Arafat presented to President Mubarak a comprehensive review of what was agreed upon in Taba.

President Mubarak travelled all the way from Alexandria this evening especially to meet the Palestinian president at his place of residence in al-Andalus Palace in order to honor President 'Arafat and express appreciation for the great efforts he exerted throughout the difficult period of negotiations. President Mubarak traveled from Cairo airport directly to where President 'Arafat is staying.

The round of talks between the two leaders was attended on the Egyptian side by Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs. On the Palestinian side, the meeting was attended by Palestinian Ambassador in Cairo Zuhdi al-Qidrah; Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, adviser to the Palestinian president; and Marwan Kanafani, official spokesman for President 'Arafat.

Mubarak Receives Clinton Phone Call on Peace Talks

NC2409190495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1840 GMT 24 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 24 Sep (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received a telephone call from U.S. President Bill Clinton tonight. The conversation dealt with the Egyptian-U.S. efforts which were undertaken to secure the agreement which was initialed by the Israeli and Palestinian sides in Taba this afternoon.

President Clinton expressed his thanks for President Mubarak's efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. The two presidents discussed the arrangements being made by the United States to host the signing of the agreement in Washington.

Newspaper Praises Taba Talks, Mubarak Role

NC2509073095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0505 GMT 25 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 25 Sep (MENA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH has stated that the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations are important because they reflect mutual recognition for the first time in an old conflict.

In its editorial today it says the negotiations this time assume historical significance because of their major results leading to the removal of the Israeli military occupation from Palestinian cities, villages, and population centers in the West Bank.

The paper notes that Egypt, led by President Husni Mubarak, has made continuous, enormous efforts to maintain the positive momentum of these difficult negotiations. It says Egypt launched the peace initiative in the Middle East and that Egypt's remains the loudest voice of peace as it raises its banner at every international and regional gathering.

The paper stresses the need for the Palestinian negotiator to be armed with patience and calm, because these qualities represent the basis of wisdom and diplomacy. It adds that the Palestinian negotiator must not despair or become weary of Israeli negotiating methods, so that he will not stray from the road to the Palestinian national goal. It stresses that peace now is the only way to retrieve the right to land and security.

The paper says optimism and hope overwhelm hearts everywhere as they await the signing of an agreement on Palestinian self-rule's second phase. It notes that the agreement will be a major step toward a genuine and fair peace on every track.

Egyptian Authorities To Move Border Palestinians

NC2209192995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1915 GMT 22 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] al-Sallum, 22 Sep (MENA)—Egyptian security authorities at al-Sallum crossing point this evening started taking measures to transport the 143 Palestinians on the Egyptian-Libyan border to the Rafah and Nuwaybi' crossings.

These measures were taken after the Jordanian and Israeli authorities agreed to receive them to pave the way for their return to their country.

These Palestinians have spent many weeks at the Egyptian-Libyan border point at al-Sallum crossing.

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Palestinians Head for Jordan

NC2309103295 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0955 GMT 23 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] al-Sallum, 23 Sep (MENA)— A total of 153 Palestinians expelled from Libya left the al-Sallum border crossing point for Nuwaybi' [Egyptian port on Sinai's Gulf of 'Aqaba coast] in a car convoy this morning after the Jordanian authorities agreed to allow the Palestinians stranded in the buffer zone on the Egyptian-Libyan border to enter Jordan.

A security source at the al-Sallum border post said the Jordanian authorities have assigned a team of passport officers to quickly process the entry of the Palestinians who will take a ferry boat from Nuwaybi' to the Jordanian port of al-'Aqabah.

Meanwhile, Palestinians have started to arrive [in al-Sallum] from Libya following Jordan's acceptance of the Palestinians. The travel papers of 50 Palestinians are being processed now to allow them to leave for the Rafah terminal and from there to Gaza.

Musa, Delegation Leave for UN General Assembly

NC2409064695 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0530 GMT 24 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 24 Sep (MENA)— Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and the delegation accompanying him left Cairo for New York this morning to take part in the 50th session of the UN General Assembly, which opened on 19 September with the participation of 185 states.

Musa will deliver Egypt's speech before the Assembly tomorrow, Monday [25 September]. He will assess the UN role during the past 50 years and review current world issues like Bosnia, peace in the Middle East, the situation in Africa, and the UN role in future relations between advanced and Third World states.

U.S. Ambassador Remarks After Musa Meeting Cited

NC2309141295 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1255 GMT 23 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 23 Sep (MENA)— Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today held a joint meeting with the French, British, and U.S. ambassadors.

U.S. Ambassador Edward Walker said after the meeting that he briefed Musa on the outcome of his latest trip to the United States and that they discussed several issues on the UN General Assembly agenda and various resolutions to be passed.

Asked if Washington was still ready to host the signing of a Palestinian-Israeli accord, Walker said: We are looking forward to that and hope that the obstacles will be overcome and agreement will be reached between the two sides. He added that 'Amr Musa's forthcoming visit to the United States will provide an opportunity to hold contacts with the U.S. side on the sidelines of the General Assembly meetings.

Walker was asked about U.S. Vice President Al Gore's expected visit to Egypt to attend a meeting of the Council of Presidents for Egyptian-U.S. Economic Partnership. He replied that no date has been fixed for the visit but the idea is there and that a meeting will be held in the near future.

Asked about reports on the likelihood of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher visiting the region, the U.S. ambassador said there is no specific plan at the moment, adding that he will come when the situation requires.

Jordan's al-Kabariti, Musa Hold Further Talks

JN2209124595 Amman Radio Jordan in English
1100 GMT 22 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti has held a second round of talks in Cairo with his Egyptian counterpart 'Amr Musa. They reviewed the level of bilateral relations and the latest developments of regional and international issues of mutual concern. The two sides agreed to coordinate stands on issues and projects to be introduced in the upcoming Amman economic summit. They also tackled the results of the 104th session of the Arab League Council, which was concluded in the Egyptian capital yesterday.

In another meeting, the foreign minister held talks with his counterparts from the Arab Maghreb Union, Syria, Egypt, Lebanon, and the Palestine National Authority, as well as with Arab Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid to coordinate Arab stands in the forthcoming Barcelona summit in Spain. The Arab ministers pledged during the meeting to resume consultations and coordination to achieve good results in this summit.

NPUG Urges Halt of Normalization With Israel

NC2309172995 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic
20 Sep 95 p 13

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In its meeting last Saturday [16 September], the General Secretariat of the National Progressive Unionist Grouping [NPUG] discussed the killing of Egyptian POW's during the 1956 and 1967 aggressions. The door for the discussion was opened by Dr. Judah 'Abd-al-Khaliq, secretary of the economic

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committee, who drew attention to the seriousness of the matter. It once again proves that the NPUG took the right position when it opposed the Camp David accords, he said, adding that the issue must be a new barrier against normalization [with Israel] and those involved in it.

After a debate in which Dr. Rif'at al-Sa'id, Mamduh 'Ubayd 'Ayish, 'Adil al-Dawi, 'Aziz al-Masri, Salah Farraj, and Muhammad Faraj participated, the General Secretariat agreed to issue the following statement:

Israel's confession that Egyptian POW's were assassinated during the 1956 and 1967 aggressions has drawn angry reactions by the Egyptian people and all their political and nationalist forces. They strongly condemned these crimes, which violate human rights and international laws and conventions and raise many questions about the settlement agreements reached between Arab governments and Israel. [passage omitted]

Condemnation alone, or demanding an Israeli investigation of these crimes, are not enough. Specific practical steps by Egypt and the Arabs, on official and popular levels, must be made to isolate Israel from the world, try and condemn its leaders, and revise all political positions by the Egyptian and Arab governments in their dealing with Israel. [passage omitted]

In its first meeting after the revelation of these crimes, the NPUG General Secretariat decides:

—To call on popular and nationalist forces to escalate their activity against normalization with the Israeli enemy and against the plan for a Middle East market or system. The Secretariat also calls on the Egyptian Government to suspend all normalization steps and not to participate in the economic summit scheduled in Amman at the end of October. The summit seeks to impose the Middle East market plan on the region and install Israel as a ruling economic power.

—To call for holding prayers for the souls of our martyred POW's, who have been assassinated by Israel in the various wars since 1948, in all mosques of the republic on Friday 22 September, and to hold a mass for their virtuous souls in the Orthodox Coptic Church and in all Egyptian churches on Sunday 24 September.

—To address international organizations, especially the UN Human Rights Commission and other human right organizations, so that they will assume their responsibility in condemning Israel and imposing international sanctions on it.

The NPUG will continue to participate in the activities of all Egyptian and Arab popular forces concerning this important issue, and will study other required steps until the killers pay the price for their crime and the right circumstances for the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace in the region are created.

Islamic Group Member Arrested by Croatian Security

NC2409090495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1925 GMT 22 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 22 Sep (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AHRAM reports that the Croatian security authorities arrested the terrorist Tal'at Fu'ad Qasim, media spokesman of the so-called Islamic Group, while he was travelling to Bosnia.

The newspaper clarified in its issue for tomorrow, Saturday 23 September, that the above-mentioned terrorist is one of the most prominent fugitive terrorists abroad. He was granted political asylum in Denmark two years ago. He has also managed to escape from a death sentence issued against him in 1992.

The newspaper did not mention when the terrorist was arrested or how the arrest took place.

Group Threatens Croatia

NC2309130195 Paris AFP in English 1240 GMT 23 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Sept 23 (AFP) — Egyptian Moslem militants threatened Croatia with reprisals after one of their leaders was arrested in the former Yugoslav republic en route to Bosnia, an Arabic newspaper reported Saturday [23 September].

AL-HAYAH quoted a statement from the Islamic Association of the Faithful to the Koran, reacting to the arrest of Tal'at Fu'ad Qasim, a leading member of the al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah militant group. "Croatia is getting mixed up in a conflict which could make it the target of reprisal acts by Islamists because Tal'at Fu'ad Qasim is very popular among the world's Moslems, including Croatian Moslems," the statement said. The London-based association represents Egyptian Islamic groups, including al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah which has been seeking to bring down the Egyptian Government.

"Croatia is responsible for everything that happens to Tal'at Fu'ad Qasim, whether he is a victim of the (Zagreb) authorities or Croatia allows other parties to take action," it said, referring to Egypt where he faces death.

Qasim, also known as Abu-Tal'at al-Qasimi [name as received], was sentenced to death in his absence in December 1992 after being found guilty of trying to overthrow the government of President Husni Mubarak.

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Egyptian officials charged he was attempting to meet other Egyptian militants in Bosnia to discuss plans for attacks against the Cairo government when he was arrested by the Croatian authorities a few days ago.

Qasim's wife, who lives in Denmark, accused Croatia of abducting her husband, who wanted to go to Bosnia to prepare a book on the tragedy of the Bosnian people, AL-HAYAH said. The paper said Denmark, which gave Qasim political asylum two years ago, has asked for an explanation from Croatia after the Moslem militant disappeared in July.

Croatia's Foreign Ministry said Qasim "left Croatian territory after being expelled by the legal authorities on July 14 for breaking regulations governing residence of foreigners, the paper added. Qasim fought alongside Afghan mujahedeen guerrillas against the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan in the 1980s. The Egyptian security services have accused him of writing and sending media statements in which Jamaa Islamiyaa has claimed responsibility for fundamentalist attacks.

14 MB Members Await Trial; Leaflet Investigated

NC2209203695 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic 18 Sep 95 pp 1, 13

[Report by 'Abd-al-Fattah 'Abd-al-Mun'im and Khalid Salah]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The story of the collision between the Muslim Brotherhood [MB] and the government continues to unfold. Reports on contacts between the two sides to calm down the situation have leaked, while security organs accuse MB groups of preparing to launch acts of violence.

Informed sources have told AL-'ARABI that 14 MB leading figures from the 200-member group arrested at a youth camp in al-'Amiriyah in Alexandria are expected to be referred to a military court soon. They will join the 49 leading figures whose trial started on Saturday [23 September].

Yesterday, the Cairo Court for Urgent Affairs ruled that it has no jurisdiction to examine the request submitted by lawyer 'Abd-al-Halim Mandur to revoke the president's decree to refer the Brothers to military courts. [passage omitted]

Sources close to the MB have stated that secret contacts were held last week between officials holding important positions in a higher authority and two of the group's leaders. Security sources have told AL-'ARABI that they monitored movements by other MB leaders, who were rumored to have rejected the Guidance Bureau's handling of the crisis, that indicate that they seek violent alternatives. The same source [as published] noted that officials in the U.S. State Department had held contacts with some MB leaders who live in Europe and emphasized their denunciation of the measures taken against the MB. However, MB official spokesman Ma'mun al-Hudaybi has denied any knowledge of such contacts. He stressed that the Brothers are not holding any contacts with the Americans or others and voiced the group's rejection of the intervention of any foreign state in domestic affairs. However, he pointed out that the group's headquarters receives officials from foreign embassies for regular meetings in which differences with the regime are not raised. He noted that the last meeting held with officials from the U.S. Embassy was approximately a year ago. During the meeting, he added, we discussed the affairs of Muslims in the United States.

In an unrelated development, a security team has secretly traveled to London the day before yesterday to gather information regarding the antiregime leaflet signed by "Mr. Fahmi." The source of the leaflet remains unknown. The security team will try to establish a link between the leaflet and leaders of the Jihad Group or Islamic Group. Another opinion believes that some MB leaders in London are behind the leaflet. The security team will also investigate reports by officials in the Egyptian embassies abroad regarding threats by a hitherto unnamed organization. The organization threatens to carry out acts of violence inside Egypt. The threats have increased in the past few weeks, but the organization has not revealed its affiliation.

MB Spokesman on Elections, Government by Shari'ah

NC2209201395 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 13 Sep 95 p 6

[Interview with MB official spokesman Ma'mun al-Hudaybi by Muhammad Raghib in Cairo; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Raghib] Perhaps the arrests of Muslim Brotherhood [MB] members and their referral to military courts had reasons other than merely preventing them from contesting the elections? Do you believe that there are other reasons?

[Al-Hudaybi] The obvious reason so far is the government's wish to prevent us from taking part in the next elections. It is clear that the government does not want the Muslim Brothers to field many candidates, especially well-known Brotherhood figures who have been in detention since January 1995. So far we do not know of any other reasons.

[Raghib] If the government's objective is to prevent you from taking part in the elections, will you insist on taking part regardless of the consequences?

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[Al-Hudaybi] We know that the next elections will be contested by individual candidates, not party tickets. We do not have the power to urge our members to run or prevent them from running if they wish to do so. At any rate, from the beginning there was a general desire to participate in the elections, not only among the Muslim Brothers but all other political parties and some individual candidates. I think that this desire is still strong in the Brotherhood's ranks.

[Raghib] Do you have any alliances with other parties and are you coordinating with them over the elections?

[Al-Hudaybi] Making alliances will be difficult because the elections will be contested by individual candidates. It is known that we have a permanent alliance with the Labor Party. Coordination will of course depend on the behavior of the candidates and therefore will take the form of local agreements in the constituencies rather than coordination among the leaders.

[Raghib] Perhaps the regime will insist that the MB should disclose its contacts and financial resources. Are you afraid of that?

[Al-Hudaybi] We are afraid of nothing. All the Brotherhood's activities are legal, constitutional, public, and clear. When we disclose these matters, this does not have to be connected with a demand from the regime or any other authority. There is no need for debate over this matter and no need to give various interpretations to the affair since all these activities are public and legal.

[Raghib] In view of what has befallen the Brotherhood, can you tell us this: Who are you so that the regime can release you?

[Al-Hudaybi] Ask the government. We are the Muslim Brothers.

[Raghib] You have ambitions to enter parliament. Do you aspire to govern?

[Al-Hudaybi] Our basic demand is to be governed according to Islamic principles. This does not mean that we regard the country or the government as unbelievers. What we say is this: There is still much to be done to make Islamic teachings govern the country. This is what we are seeking to do. We welcome anyone who pursues this objective. If we become members of parliament, it will be possible for us to make our voices heard on this issue and urge government by shar'iah. Other than making this demand, the MB has no ambition to govern.

[Raghib] You stand accused of violence and terrorism. Does this mean that the Brotherhood has no hope of returning to the political arena?

[Al-Hudaybi] We do stand accused of these acts, but sometimes certain rumors are made about us to justify the arbitrary measures taken against us. President Mubarak, however, has frequently declared that we are a moderate and sober group. Former interior minister Major General 'Abd-al-Halim Musa defended us several times in his official statements, denying that we are a violent group. Current Interior Minister Maj. Gen. Hasan al-Alfi has affirmed that we preach our call by peaceful means.

[Raghib] When and how will the regime and the Brotherhood be reconciled?

[Al-Hudaybi] This will happen when there is real freedom in the country and a truly democratic system.

'Terrorists' Ordered To Transfer Operations

NC2209212695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2043 GMT 22 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 22 Sep (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AHRAM, in Saturday's issue [23 September], quotes a senior security official as saying that the terrorist command in Sudan has issued orders to terrorists operating in Egypt to transfer their operations from the Upper Egypt governorates, particularly al-Minya, to Cairo for dramatic effect and to provoke reactions. This follows a recent reduction of terrorist operations.

The security official told the newspaper that the terrorist leaders wish to revive the organization known as the Islamic Group. They want to use mosques as recruiting centers for new members and then enlist them in the Islamic Group's military wing, many of whose old members were killed in recent clashes.

The source revealed to AL-AHRAM that a terrorist group recently planned to assassinate a senior security official. This followed an earlier failure to carry out a suicide operation in Central Cairo by a group taking its orders from terrorist leader Mustafa Hamzah, who resides in Khartoum. When the suicide group was caught, Hamzah named a senior security commander whom he said must be eliminated.

The official added that the terrorist leaders in Sudan are seeking to recruit new members for the organization's military wing after several groups, trained in Sudan, were uncovered and arrested by the security forces when they infiltrated Egypt. One of the thwarted operations that those groups had been instructed to carry out was a plan to assassinate a senior security official in a suicide operation. One terrorist, trained in Sudan, was ordered to wrap a belt of explosives round his body and storm the waiting room of the intended victim. The arrest of five infiltrators one and a half months ago foiled this attack.

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Libya

Only 7 Palestinians Accept Offer of Return

NC2209130195 Paris AFP in English
0929 GMT 22 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Al-Sallum, Egypt, Sept 22 (AFP)—Libya has authorized the return of some 150 expelled Palestinians trapped in a no-man's land on the Egyptian border for the last three weeks, officials at this border post said Friday [22 September].

But only seven Palestinians, four of them students, took up the offer on Thursday and the rest are refusing on the grounds that they have no employment or homes to return to in Libya.

"There is no other solution for them but to return to that country but they must have guarantees of being able to find jobs and homes," said Muhammad Subayh, the PLO's representative to the Arab League in Cairo.

Algerian Foreign Minister Mohammad Saleh Dembri said Libya's minister of Arab unity, Jum'ah al-Fazzani, assured him when they met at an Arab League meeting in Cairo this week that Tripoli had stopped expelling Palestinians.

Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi decided at the start of September to expel the 30,000 Palestinians living in the country to show up what he called the failure of the PLO's autonomy deal with Israel.

But the moved whipped up a storm of protest in other Arab countries and Lebanon refused to accommodate a mass return of Palestinians with Lebanese travel documents, slapping visa restrictions.

Union Official on Illegal 'Surplus Labor Force'

LD2209191395 Tripoli JANA in Arabic
1655 GMT 22 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tunis, 22 Sep (JANA) — The assistant secretary general of the General Association of Productive and Vocational Trade Unions has stated that the Great Jamahiriyah had warned that there was a surplus labor force illegally in Libya, and that it would be necessary for it to leave. In a press statement published here today he pointed out that such an issue could arise in any country of the world, that the phenomenon of surplus labor force should be checked, and that the Great Jamahiriyah dealt with it in a humane and civilized manner, contrary to what happens in European countries. He added that the General Association of Productive and Vocational Trade Unions has not received any complaint from Arab workers; it has not received any protest. He said that some years ago the Great Jamahiriyah pointed out to workers that they should settle their legal status. He asserted that no workers legally working in Libya were affected.

Aide Cited on Lockerbie Proposal, Palestinians

MM2209154595 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
22 Sep 95 p 6

[Report by Ashraf al-Faqy: "Seven-Member Lockerbie Committee Resumes Activities]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo — AL-HAYAH has learned that members of the seven-member committee on the Lockerbie crisis, namely the Maghreb Union states, Egypt, and Syria, have agreed to the Libyan proposal for the committee to hold a meeting in New York, at the beginning of next month on the fringes of [UN] General Assembly proceedings to discuss new ways to move the Lockerbie crisis toward the Arab proposal.

Jum'ah al-Fazzani, secretary (minister) of the Libyan General People's Committee for Unity, expressed his satisfaction with the Arab League Council's decision concerning the Lockerbie crisis. He thanked the Arab states and the Arab League for their support of Libya's handling of the crisis.

The council had urged the three Western states concerned, Britain, the United States, and France, to accept the Arab League's proposal that the three Libyan suspects stand trial before a Scottish court at the International Court of Justice or any UN headquarters.

In a statement to AL-HAYAH al-Fazzani stressed his country's desire to participate in the Barcelona Mediterranean summit next November, and reiterated his country's opposition to any meetings attended by Israel, referring to the economic conference to be held in the Jordanian capital at the end of next month.

On the problem of the Palestinians expelled from Libya al-Fazzani said that his country is not responsible for their failure to return to their land and homes. He added: "Are we the ones who have prevented the Palestinians from returning to their land and homes?"

He went on: "The Palestinian cause is an indivisible whole. The restoration of land and the return of the people are two issues that are linked and cannot be separated. Libya has attempted to provide an international public opinion that would enable the Palestinians to return home and has urged the Arab states to exert pressure to safeguard the interests of the Palestinians and enable them to return home."

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Egyptian Minister Denies BBC Story on Factory

LD2209153695 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1430 GMT 22 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 22 Sep (JANA) — Dr. 'Ali Abd-al-Fattah al-Makhzanji [Egyptian health minister] made a statement to JANA at the end of his visit to the Great Jamahiriyah in which he hailed the depths of fraternal relations between the Arab Great Jamahiriyah and Arab Egypt, stressing that the Arab Libyan people, lead by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, are working for the good of this nation and towards raising it toward a better future.

He said the Rabitah Pharmaceutical Plant inauguration ceremony, which he had attended, was a landmark in this era of revival for building prosperity for Libya and for the Arab nation as it produces fundamental pharmaceutical materials needed by Libya, Egypt, and the entire Arab world.

The Egyptian health minister refuted the English intelligence radio known as London Radio [BBC] report that the journalists who attended the inauguration had to "remain at a distance from it." He had inspected every part of the plant and all production stages in detail from the raw materials entering to the end product. All those who attended the inauguration ceremony, Arabs and foreigners, had seen that, he said.

He added that thousands of foreigners who came to the inauguration ceremony had seen the plant in addition to the journalists and the radio and TV correspondents.

The Egyptian health minister said that no one was prevented from seeing the factory. He went inside and all those attending, including the representatives of foreign states and heads of political missions, saw all the installations at the factory over a period of three consecutive hours. Whatever the English broadcasting service might say, he can bear witness that this factory is for primary pharmaceutical materials which the Arab nation needs.

He said that those who wish us to continue to stretch out our hands and beg for technology and expertise continually reject any progress on our part and attack any successful project.

He added: I believe that this success must inevitably have enemies and those who attack it but such attacks spur on the workers in this successful field to yet more success and to prove their success in the long term in order to discredit the allegations disseminated by any foreign radio stations to mislead world public opinion.

He said: We were there in the factory — Egyptians, Moroccans, foreigners, broadcasting services personnel, the press and all the other media. We saw the whole factory and saw all the steps involved in manufacturing primary pharmaceutical materials and the production lines in this factory which produces primary drugs. [passage omitted]

'London Radio' Report on al-Rabitah Criticized

LD2409215595 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Sep 95

[Statement by "an authoritative source at the external media department of the General People's Committee for Information, Culture and Mass Mobilization"; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The English [as received] intelligence radio, known as London radio, broadcast that the journalists and correspondents who attended the opening of the al-Rabitah factory for raw materials were kept away from the factory.

We do not find this blatant fabrication by the London radio strange at all. We would however, find it strange when this radio broadcast some true and correct reporting.

Despite this truth, we wish the Radio London in its malicious allegation, had relied on a correspondent of its own to be present at the place of the inauguration and not on its talk writer "John Wright" whose imagination made him see from his office in London that the journalists and correspondents were kept away from the factory itself.

In order to project the truth, which the radio of the English intelligence always tries to skip and ignore, the opportunity was provided in full for correspondents and journalists were given the opportunity to enter the factory, move quite freely in it and no cameraman was prevented from taking photographs nor was any correspondent prevented from talking to officials in the factory or obtaining information or answers to his questions and inquiries.

All the journalists, correspondents, and radio channels, like all the delegations which attended the opening, were able to become acquainted with all the stages of production and they were able to roam about inside the factory from the control room to the last stage of the the production of the raw materials. [passage omitted]

Thus, it has become certain, as is always the case, in that what Radio London had broadcast about the al-Rabitah medicines factory had been no more than pure figment of the imagination of the talk writer "John Wright."

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Tripoli TV Comments on PLO-Israel Agreement

LD2409210195 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 24 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In another step in the direction of giving more concessions to the enemies of the Arab nation and squandering the rights of the Palestinian Arab people, and falling further in the tracks of self-deception of the so-called peace, reports today said that the Fatah organization and the Israeli enemy have signed a so-called second stage of the Palestinian autonomy in Gaza and Jericho, so that the gap of the abyss at which the capitulationists who believed in this big lie becomes wider by the possibility of the so-called peace with the enemies of the Arab nation, who with the infinite Western/American support have been entrenching their occupation of Palestine and committing various brands of killing, torture, and destruction in the Palestinian Arab soil at a time when millions of the sons of the Palestinian Arab people still live in refugee camps in the diaspora.

The announcement of this step comes in order to confirm the continuation of those who became involved in the chain of surrender in throwing away the great sacrifices that were made by the sons of the Palestinian Arab people and the Arab nation on the road of liberation and return, and disregarding the blood of the martyrs who gave their lives for Palestine.

Tripoli on 'Disturbing' Reports of Arab Disarmament

LD2209115195 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0930 GMT 22 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, 22 Sep, JANA — News reports have indicated that talks are being held in the Jordanian capital, Amman, between Egypt, Palestinians, Morocco, Tunisia, a number of Gulf countries, and the Israeli enemy on disarmament in the Middle East. The reports also indicated that the participants in the talks will be examining the setting up of regional security centers in Jordan, Qatar, and Tunisia.

A source at the Secretariat of the General People's Committee for Unity has said that contacts are under way between the Secretariat of the General People's Committee and the Arab countries taking part in the talks to establish whether such serious and very disturbing reports to everyone in the Arab homeland are true or not.

However, the Secretariat of the General People's Committee will not make any further comment on such a matter until contacts are made with our Arab brethren to establish whether such serious and disturbing news are true or not.

Paper Warns Rome of Extremist Stance on Mines

LD2409125295 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1150 GMT 24 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 24 Sep (JANA) — The Libyan newspaper AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR called on Italy to cooperate with the Great Jamahiriyah in revealing the mine fields that it planted in Libya during its colonial period.

The newspaper said in its editorial that numerous countries were harmed by the mines planted in their territories by colonialist countries, and their development projects were crippled.

AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR added that "the conference which the United Nations intends to hold [words indistinct] against the Libyan Arab people.

The newspaper concluded by saying ....we are trying to make Italy realize the importance of cooperation in revealing these mines so that it would not push us to adopt an extremist stance in this respect.... [agency ellipses].

Mauritania

Algerian Prime Minister Arrives for Visit

LD2409152995 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 1300 GMT 24 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Algerian Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi arrived at noon today in the capital [Nouakchott] on a three-day working visit. [passage omitted]

The Algerian prime minister shook hands with representatives of the Maghreban embassies in Nouakchott and members of the government, before heading with his excellency the Mauritanian prime minister to the VIP lounge where he answered press questions on the aims of the visit.

[Begin Sifi recording] In the name of God the merciful and compassionate. First of all I would like to express my happiness and gratitude to be on this good land. [passage omitted]

This visit will enable me to hold talks with my brother, Prime Minister Sidi Mohamed Ould Boubaker. These talks will deal with all issues of common concern, in addition to cooperation in all spheres of activity. During my visit I will convey to His Excellency President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya a verbal message from his brother, his excellency, head of state [President] Liamine Zeroual.

This visit falls within the framework of the consultations, coordination, and the exchanging of points of

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view on all the issues of common concern, as well as in the sphere of bilateral cooperation. This visit also aims at widening and promoting bilateral cooperation, and examining the possibility of opening new prospects for this bilateral cooperation. In this sphere, I have included in the official delegation accompanying me an important number of Algerian businessmen who will discuss with their colleagues in Mauritania the best means for providing this cooperation with a new impetus, and to give the content of this cooperation more than what is tangible or perceptible. This work between businessmen aims at developing and promoting these economic and commercial links, and also at creating joint projects in all the possible spheres. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Following this statement, the motorcade headed to the guest house where his excellency the prime minister held private talks with his Algerian guest, Mokdad Sifi, and the two delegations accompanying them will hold the first of their meetings this afternoon. [passage omitted]

Morocco

Dipiomat Restates Official Policy on Sahara

LD2309130795 Rabat MAP in English 1243 GMT 23 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New York, Sep. 23 (MAP) — Morocco keeps on proclaiming its desire to make the referendum unfold according to the set rules and fixed timetable, Moroccan permanent representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Ahmed Senoussi said following the adoption by the UN Security Council of a resolution on the Sahara issue.

Senoussi said the resolution provides for the prorogation of the MINURSO [United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara] mandate up to January 31st, 1996, and for a number of financial and political arrangements.

One of the major concerns of the preamble of the resolution, Senoussi added, is the setting in motion of the identification of the applicants for voting residing out of the Saharan provinces. The council asks 'the secretary general to promote all the solutions likely to overcome any hindrance posed by the other party to end up the identification operation the soonest', he went on.

Senoussi said the point is to highlight the breaches of the other party concerning the settlement plan and related resolutions. The resolution clearly states that all criteria must abided by and any applicant presenting to the commission must be heard and possibly accepted as voter.

In this respect, Senoussi said that the Security Council, while having recalled the principle of observing the resolutions on the definition of the criteria, stressed the failure of the other party to duly participate in the identification in the territory and the need to conform the soonest to the set standards and rules. Senoussi added that the MINURSO should to implement the five criteria without any discrimination.

The resolution calls on the secretary general to work out arrangements in accordance with relevant resolutions of the Security Council, namely resolutions 725 and 907 on the identification criteria and the compromise on their interpretation and implementation.

He said the resolution assessed the results of the preliminary verification and regrets that the results do not contribute to the respect of the timetable by the MINURSO.

On this matter Senoussi said the Moroccan delegation repeated time and again to the members of the Security Council that the preliminary verification was requested to Morocco as a favor by resolution 1002. It was neither a mission nor an obligation, he stressed saying Morocco fulfilled it willingly as has been the case all through the process.

He added that the Moroccan Government had previously explained that it was up to the United Nations and the MINURSO to carry out the operations of identification which is an integral part of the referendum. Morocco voluntarily helped, but could not do it but in the respect of the rules set by the resolutions.

'Hence any one that showed up as part of the verification was heard according to the criteria set in Geneva in June 1990 by all the tribes saying that no Sahrawi presenting himself as such can be prevented from expressing his/her will to vote at the referendum', Senoussi said.

The MINURSO at the outset did not have the means to normally carry out it task and its calls in this regard were ignored by all, he said explaining that it was agreed that at least 40 centers were to be opened to be able to respect deadlines and keep up the pace, but, as the Security Council noted, only two centers are running up to date. This is because of lack of means, but also because of the hindrances the other party has mounted when it realized the inanity of its stand.

The Kingdom of Morocco keeps on proclaiming its desire to see the referendum proceed according to the set rules and timetable, but we note that the United Nations and the MINURSO are not able to impel a dynamic to the process because of the whims of the other party and of the complexity of the operation.

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Industrialists Invited To Exhibit at Tehran Fair

LD2209150495 Rabat MAP in English 1238 GMT 22 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rabat, Sep 22 (MAP) — Iranian Ambassador in Rabat, Ja'far Shamsiyan, invited Moroccan economic operators to participate in the Tehran International Fair, to be held by the end of October and said Moroccan exhibitors will benefit from a 50 percent cut in participation fees.

The Iranian diplomat who was holding a meeting with Chairman of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Ahmed Mrabet, said businessmen can play a key role in upgrading trade relations between the two countries and increasing the volume of exchanges.

He also invited Moroccan car industry executives to pay visits to Iran to get informed about the Iranian experience and to explore means of consolidating cooperation in the field.

The two sides, who agreed that there are genuine possibilities for economic complementarity, decided to draw a list of products and goods to be exchanged between the two countries.

Damascus To Sign Judicial Cooperation Agreement

LD2409191395 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Syrian Arab Republic's Justice Minister [title as heard] Husayn Hassun arrived in our country this afternoon on a few days' visit. A draft agreement on judicial cooperation between the two countries will be signed. Justice Minister Abderrahmane Amalou and 'Ali Hasan, Syria's ambassador in Rabat, received the Syrian minister at Sale Airport.

On the aim of this visit, Husayn Hassun says:

[Begin Hassun recording] The aim is primarily that I and the accompanying delegation meet the brothers in Morocco, especially his excellency the minister of justice. My visit is always, naturally, to strengthen the friendship between the two fraternal peoples and countries. This visit is also a continuation of the discussions and cooperation that began in April 1994 in Damascus. We are now continuing these discussions with my brother and colleague the minister of justice and the brothers in the Kingdom of Morocco in order to sign an agreement on judicial cooperation between the Kingdom of Morocco and the Syrian Arab Republic. We think that any meeting between the Arab east [Mashriq] and the Arab west [Maghreb] will strengthen the ties of brotherhood and friendship that exist between the two fraternal countries. [end recording]

Sudan

SDUP Dismisses UNESCO Call for Meeting

NC2309182695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1655 GMT 23 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 23 Sep (MENA)—The Sudanese Democratic Unionist Party [SDUP] said any meeting between rival parties in Sudan is a waste of time and an attempt to prolong the life of the tottering al-Bashir-al-Turabi regime.

The party released a statement in Cairo today in response to UNESCO's call for a meeting between the rival parties in Sudan to discuss their differences. The party said such a meeting will not change the true situation and that the party will not recant its principles and will not accept any resolutions or recommendations passed by such a meeting.

The party appealed to all political forces in Sudan to keep away from such meetings that lack political vision.

Meanwhile, General Fathi Ahmad 'Ali, deputy chairman of the Sudanese National Democratic Grouping, said the al-Bashir regime's charges that the Sudanese Communist Party was behind the recent popular disturbances reveals the Sudanese regime's bankruptcy and confusion.

He added that the Sudanese ruling regime's charges against Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Egypt that they have been behind these incidents are no more than a desperate attempt at deception which the Khartoum regime has been practicing and which will fool no one.

Opposition Figure Defies al-Bashir's 'Threat'

JN2209201395 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1810 GMT 22 Sep 95

[Interview with Faruq Abu-'Isa, secretary general of the Arab Lawyers' Federation and spokesman and first deputy secretary general of the NDG, by Ahmad Birru in Paris; date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Birru] Mr. Faruq Abu-'Isa, secretary general of the Arab Lawyers' Federation and spokesman and first deputy of the National Democratic Grouping [NDG] of the Sudanese opposition. You are on a visit to Paris in the context of efforts by the opposition to explain the situation in Sudan. What are the contacts and activities you are holding in France?

[Abu-'Isa] Following the significant congress of the NDG in Asmara which was held two months ago, we agreed to start traveling around the world to explain the cause of our people and homeland. [passage omitted]

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[Birru] President 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir challenged the opposition to step up its activity and resort to weapons. What does this challenge mean? Does it mean that the opposition cannot step up struggle and carry out anything beyond demonstrations?

[Abu-'Isa] The most important thing about this statement is that it revealed the reality of al-Bashir. Some thought that he was different from [Islamic National Front chairman Hasan] al-Turabi. However, this statement confirmed that the two men are only two sides of the same coin. From the outset, we said that our uprising this time should be protected. It should protect itself from any deception or any deterrent attempts by the militias of the [Islamic National] Front. I am confident that our people in Sudan know that if they organize themselves everywhere, they will provide protection for their movement in the future.

[Birru] Will the opposition use weapons to topple the ruling system?

[Abu-'Isa] Absolutely, yes, in order to defend the uprising and ourselves and to achieve the ultimate victory by uprooting this regime. At any rate, as far as al-Bashir's threat to the opposition is concerned, we accept this challenge. We will duel with him because we are confident that the Sudanese people and the whole world will support us. They will witness the victory of the Sudanese people as they witnessed victory twice in the past against the dictatorship of the Islamic front in Khartoum.

[Birru] Prior to the demonstrations, the authority took some appeasing measures suggesting openness. These included the release of many prisoners. Yesterday, it released 30 more prisoners. Is there a possibility for reaching an understanding with the system?

[Abu-'Isa] Absolutely not. 'Umar al-Bashir's statement stresses the wicked intentions of this gang in Khartoum. Therefore, we no longer buy such measures. These scenarios are used by the Islamic National Front every time it is isolated. The Front has been isolated recently, especially after the assassination attempt against Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. The Ethiopian, African, and international parties have made sure that the Front's regime is wicked and bloody, represents international terrorism, and poses a danger to the international community, and not only to Sudan. This scenario is meant to break the isolation. This is an exposed scenario. There will be no dialogue. Rather, there will be a duel until the regime is uprooted. [passage omitted]

President al-Bashir Leaves for PRC

EA2409145695 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 2245 GMT 23 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The president of the Republic, Staff Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, and the delegation accompanying him left the country yesterday evening for the People's Republic of China.

22 Student Demonstrators Released by Government

AB2409192195 Paris AFP in English 1318 GMT 24 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, Sept 24 (AFP) — Authorities have freed 22 students arrested after a wave of anti-government demonstrations in which at least three people died, the AL-ENGAZ AL-WATANI newspaper reported Sunday [24 September].

It quoted government attorney Amir Mohamed Ibrahim saying the students would not be prosecuted "although there was ample evidence that justifies bringing them to trial for charges of inciting riots and disturbing public order." Instead all the released university students had to sign a pledge promising not to take part in riots or disturb public order for a year. "Failure to comply with this undertaking makes the concerned person liable to accountability under the criminal law," Ibrahim added.

They were among up to 500 people detained in the capital and other cities during a wave of protests that erupted after three students were arrested at Khartoum University. Ibrahim said they were being released to allow them to continue with their studies and sit their examinations.

However officials were still questioning a "small number" of suspects and the interrogation would be completed in the next few days, he added. He would not identify who or how many were still held. Sudanese Police General Commissioner Abdel Monim Sayed Sulayman had earlier said a number of students and other people would stand trial for participating in the riots nearly two weeks ago.

Last week Sudan accused Ethiopians and Eritreans of stirring up the unrest along with local communists. An official toll put the number of deaths at three, but opposition parties said six were killed.

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Tunisia

Foreign Minister Holds Talks in Washington

LD2309190895 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Within the framework of the mission he is carrying out in Washington on instructions from President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahia held a series of meetings with officials in the U.S. Administration and members of the congress.

The foreign minister has met with Dennis Ross, coordinator of the peace processes in the Middle East, and exchanged points of view with him on the development of the peace process, particularly the progress recorded within the framework of the different negotiations. On this occasion, Dennis Ross renewed the U.S. Administration's appreciation and acknowledgement of Tunisia for its commitment in supporting the sides working for peace in the region, and the continued backing which President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has offered in this direction.

Habib Ben Yahia also held talks with Walter Slocombe, the undersecretary of state for defense in charge of political affairs. The meeting enabled the two sides to exchange points of view on the situation in the region, and highlight the good relations existing between Tunisia and the United States in the sphere of bilateral cooperation. In this context, Mr. Slocombe stressed the importance the United States attaches to stability and security in Tunisia. [passage omitted]

Western Sahara

UN Council Suspends MINURSO Mandate

LD2109141395 Rabat MAP in English 1324 GMT 21 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New York, Sep. 21 (MAP) — The UN Security Council unanimously approved the secretary general's proposal to prorogue the mandate of the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara 'MINURSO' until January 31, 1996, the council's chairman, Ambassador Fulci of Italy, told the press Wednesday [20 September].

The chairman made the statement at the end of informal consultations during which the council heard an oral report by the special advisor to the secretary general, Ambassador Chinmaya Gharekhan, on the evolution of the identification process of potential voters in the projected referendum in the Sahara.

The chairman, who noted that all the members of the Security Council approved the proposal of the UN secretary general, underlined that some delegations voiced concern over the delay in implementing the settlement plan and the impact of the delay on the cost of the operation.

There are still many problems to be settled, particularly the 'Polisario's [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] opposition to the checking of the identity of 100,000 persons who applied for voting in the referendum and who are currently living in Morocco, the council's chairman said.

The chairman added that some members of the council suggested to ask Mauritania to help in the identification of 140,000 applicants who live in its territory.

Polisario Denies Secret Talks With Morocco

LD2509092995 (Clandestine) National Radio of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic in Arabic 2300 GMT 24 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Rumors are circulating in the Moroccan capital, Rabat, as well as in other capitals, that negotiations are taking place in the Portuguese capital, Lisbon, between the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia El-Hamra and Rio de Oro [Polisario] and Morocco.

The Moroccan authorities have not denied these rumors when asked by diplomats for the truth or otherwise of the matter. [passage omitted]

While the Polisario Front denies the existence of such a meeting, which is being publicized in Rabat, it stresses its conviction that direct talks remain the suitable and correct way for solving issues which obstruct implementation of the UN peace plan [words indistinct] on Western Sahara.

President Urges Germany To Help Save Peace Plan

LD2209195695 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 22 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Saharan President Mohamed Abdelaziz called on Germany today to take the initiative as soon as possible to save the peace plan on Western Sahara. The Saharan president said in a press interview held in Berlin that Germany's position has always been characterized by neutrality in connection with the Western Saharan issues. Mohamed Abdelaziz pointed out that Germany could play the role of direct mediator between the Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] and Morocco, and could also influence the EU, and the UN Security Council.

The Saharan president renewed his criticism of the United Nations, pointing out that the UN peace-keeping

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forces in the region are weak, and he accused the Moroccan government of obstructing the peace process, recalling once more that the war can be resumed if this course does not develop. [passage omitted]

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GCC Officials Discuss Economic Cooperation

LD2409153595 Riyadh SPA in English 1226 GMT 24 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, Sept 24, SPA — Under secretaries in-charge of finance and electric power affairs in member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] held a joint meeting here today under the chairmanship of Bahraini under secretary for finance and national economy Shaykh Ibrahim Bin-Khalifah al-Khalifah.

In a statement, Shaykh Ibrahim Bin-Khalifah highlighted the important subject of the joint meeting's agenda and said it represented a primary base in developing the level of joint cooperation among the member states.

He said the project of an integrated power grid system between the GCC states demonstrated the ideal economic tool for guaranteeing the availability of the electric power that could cope with the requirements of the economic needs.

The GCC is made up of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd, 'Arafat Hold Telephone Conversation

LD2509082795 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2155 GMT 24 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Jeddah, 24 Sep — King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, today received a telephone call from His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine. The conversation centered around matters of mutual concern and matters that benefit the interests of the two fraternal people and countries.

King Fahd, Mubarak Discuss Relations

LD2409225395 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2200 GMT 24 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Jeddah, 24 Sep — King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, today received a telephone call from his brother His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, the Arab Republic of Egypt president.

The conversation during the telephone call centered around bilateral relations and the new developments in the international arena and all that benefits the interest of the two fraternal people and countries.

United Arab Emirates

'Sources' Comment on Islands Dispute With Iran

MM2209151695 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Sep 95 p 3

[Report by Taj-al-Din 'Abd-al-Haq: "UAE: Iranian Military Exercises Will Not Provoke Us Into Changing Peaceful Orientation"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Abu Dhabi — Informed sources in Abu Dhabi have said the "special training programs" undertaken today by the Iranian forces on Abu Musa Island, one of three islands currently disputed with the UAE [United Arab Emirates], are part of the Iranian policy that aims to maintain the status quo and reinforce the military occupation of the island.

The source stressed that Iran has already consolidated its military presence and initiated a network of defenses on the island, pointing out that all this was the result of the occupation and was intended to emphasize its military aspect.

The source said that although the UAE condemns these Iranian acts on the island, they will not be provoked into changing the position to which they adhere, of finding a peaceful solution to the problems of the three islands, namely Tunb al-Kubra, Tunb al-Sughra, and Abu Musa.

The sources added that any Iranian military action will not weaken the UAE's resolve to resort to all peaceful means to restore its rights on the three islands, including an appeal to the International Court of Justice.

On Iranian criticism of the statement issued by the GCC foreign ministers' meeting held recently in Riyadh, the source said it is customary for Iran to make such statements and to ignore all the good initiatives undertaken by the GCC states to resolve the issue of the islands in a peaceful manner and through dialogue.

The source added that Iranian criticism will not affect the GCC states' position of solidarity toward the UAE — a position that is reaffirmed by every GCC foreign ministers' meeting. [passage omitted]

Yemen

IAEA Announces Country's 'Full' Membership

JN2209180495 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The general congress of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], currently meeting in Vienna, has announced that the Republic of Yemen has become a full member of the agency. [passage omitted]

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Official Discusses French Firm Winning Oil Deal

MM2209145495 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Sep 95 p 1

[Report by Naji Al-Harazi in Sanaa and 'Abd-al-Salam Tahir in Aden: "Revenue from Gas Project Will Exceed Current Revenue From Oil; Yemen Signs $3-Billion Deal With Total"]

[FBIS Translated Text] At noon yesterday Yemen signed the final agreement for the country's biggest energy project with the French oil company Total, after a one-day postponement.

The estimated cost of the project amounts to $3 billion. The project aims at the extraction, operation and exportation of natural gas from the Ma'rib and Al-Jawf fields.

The project will bring a revenue of about $750 million annually to Sanaa when exports begin in the year 2000, exceeding the revenue it obtains from the current oil exports, which amount to $500-550 million annually.

Yemen has left the door open for the American Hunt and Exxon companies, which had competed for the project, to participate in it.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Yemeni Deputy Oil Minister Muhyi al-Din al-Dabiy declared that the signing of the project agreement with such a big company as Total reflected the climate of reassurance, comfort, and stability that prevails over the conditions in Yemen and was the harbinger of further future huge investments, which these companies would never have contemplated had they had the slightest feeling of worry or insecurity.

Referring to the reduction, announced yesterday, in the amount of investment in the project, in which the French side will have a 70 percent share of the $5 billion in investment estimated earlier, Deputy Minister Al-Dabiy said: The sum of $3 billion relates to the installations and the pipelines to the port of export. But, he added, if we decide to purchase special tankers and some additional equipment, the amount of investment will then increase further.

Under the agreement, which took three months to prepare, the $3 billion will be invested during the first four years so that the production operation can begin and 125 million tons of gas exported annually for a period of 25 years beginning in 2000.

The sales will cover European and Asian markets. The volume of the gas reserves in these fields is estimated at 17-20 trillion cubic feet.

Under the agreement, anyone wishing to join the project can do so within three months from the date of its signing. On this subject Al-Dabiy said Sanaa has deferred consideration of numerous applications for participation to give Hunt and Exxon, its partners in the Ma'rib concession, the opportunity to join.

It is recalled that this project has been the subject of litigation before the American courts between Hunt-Exxon and the American company Enron, which had won a contract to exploit gas in 1992 on the basis that it would begin exporting in 1997 and then withdrawn after Hunt claimed in the American courts that it had more right to the project.

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British, Not CIA Said Linked to Kamil Defection

JN2209102295 Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 22 Sep 95 pp 18, 19

[Report by Safa Ha'iri in Paris]

[FBIS Translated Text] The bombshell caused by Husayn Kamil's defection to Jordan continues to impact the Gulf region and the Middle East and to scare regimes other than the Iraqi regime. Experts continue to dig for new details on the causes of the defection so as to assess its dimensions and impact, and the Iranian regime is experiencing unprecedented fear. The regime of the Mullahs in Iran seriously fears this time that the domino theory will apply to them and that the Islamic Republic of Iran will topple if the regime in Baghdad collapses.

Those who are well-versed in Iranian politics say the regime of the mullahs has never been as scared over its future as it has been since 8 August, the date of the defection of Husayn Kamil, the Iraqi president's son-in-law and the former minister of military industrialization. He was considered the mastermind of the Iraqi war machine, specifically for that of the biological and nuclear weapons arsenal that Baghdad built during the Iraq-Iran war and which was destroyed during Desert Storm in 1991. The defection continues to raise many questions in the region by experts who try to determine the causes of this defection to predict where it will lead. Last week, a Paris-based magazine called INTELLIGENCE WORLD, which reports on intelligence affairs and which is known for its accuracy and the reliability of its sources, published western intelligence reports that shed more light on the defection of Husayn Kamil, his brother, and their wives. The magazine says the defection of the father of the Iraqi mass destruction weapons industry is one of the biggest and most sensational operations the Central Intelligence Agency, the CIA, has carried out in the Middle East over the past years. The magazine cites well—informed sources in Amman as saying that preparations for Husayn Kamil's defection began on 16 April 1994 when Husayn Kamil was hospitalized in Al—Husayn Medical Center in Amman where he had a cancerous tumor removed from his head. After the operation, Husayn Kamil left the hospital on 30 April for a period of recovery in a house in West Amman. There, Saddam Husayn's son-in-law began to open his heart to some ranking Jordanian officials and started to complain about the attempts to politically relegate him to second place while giving prominence to 'Udayy Saddam Husayn.

The magazine then discusses contacts between Husayn Kamil and the U.S. Embassy. Very secret contacts began that day and Husayn Kamil used to meet U.S. intelligence officials every time he visited Amman for medical checkups in the months that followed.

The magazine says these very secret meetings with CIA agents used to take place with the latter sometimes wearing Bedouin dress as a cover and to avoid detection.

However, other well-informed security sources revealed to AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI that the most important role in Husayn Kamil's defection was not played by U.S. intelligence, but by British MI-6. These sources stressed that the agents of British intelligence had "penetrated" General Husayn Kamil and "recruited" him, and that these agents persuaded him to prepare himself to leave Iraq along with his family as soon as possible, before it was too late. These sources noted that Husayn Kamil's relationship with British intelligence was entrenched after Saddam's son-in-law [Kamil] was removed from his responsibilities in military affairs, particularly issues of chemical and nuclear armament, in favor of 'Udayy.

An intelligence security official currently living in Germany told AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI that it is impossible to imagine that Husayn Kamil fled Baghdad, accompanied by women, children, and 30 others without assistance from British foreign intelligence, which has a number of agents in Iraq, not only in the Ba'th Party, but specifically in the Iraqi intelligence organ.

The official added that the British persuaded Husayn Kamil to leave Iraq quickly following the accident of Watban al-Tikriti, who was shot and wounded by his nephew, 'Udayy. The Iraqi opposition said he was killed. Later, Iraqi television carried an interview with Watban in the hospital. This was the official story, which says the accident took place at a wedding where there was firing.

Well-informed sources told AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI that Watban was shot by 'Udayy, who apparently wanted to liquidate his cousin, who miraculously escaped.

Whether Husayn Kamil's defection was arranged by the Americans, a joint U.S.-British action, or a British action only, its dimensions show a U.S.-British plan, backed by Arab parties, to pave the way for toppling Saddam Husayn. At the same time, the region is witnessing plans to create new axes and alliances to confront these plans, whose objectives are feared to go beyond Iraq.

Iranian diplomacy was shaken by what is taking place, considering that Washington and Tel Aviv are again applying the "divide and rule" policy, and thus, are hatching a "new conspiracy to isolate Egypt, neutralize Syria, and to topple the Baghdad and Tehran regimes

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on the pretext of the open crisis of who will succeed Saddam Husayn in Iraq." The Iranian officials stressed that the "objective of the U.S. plan is to replace Cairo with Amman as a bridgehead to cross to the Gulf states by creating a new axis between Jordan and the Gulf Cooperation Council member states to pave the way for Israel's entry into this strategic region."

The Iranian press has clearly said the talks Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam held during his visit to Tehran early this month touched mainly on the situation in Iraq in light of the recent developments in Husayn Kamil's defection. A highly-placed Iranian diplomat, who declined to give his name, said "the current changes in Iraq and the important role given to Jordan as a major link in the network linking the Middle East with the Arab Gulf states have changed the region's political map, and therefore, it is natural for Syria and Iran to prepare accurate plans to confront this new and serious situation, which is full of threats to both countries."

This is why 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam flew to Tehran on 2 September on a six—hour surprise visit during which he delivered an "important" message from the Syrian president. No information was leaked on the content of the message. However, informed sources revealed that al-Asad's message proposed Syrian mediation to mend fences between Tehran and Cairo and normalize their relations. These sources added that the Syrian president noted the "need" to form a new front that includes Egypt, Syria, and Iran, as well as Iraq on certain conditions, during his summit with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. This information was confirmed when Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' extended his stay in Tehran after the conclusion of the trilateral meeting of the foreign ministers of Iran, Turkey, and Syria to discuss the situation in Iraq. Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani received al-Shar', who decided to visit Cairo this week to convey the results of his meetings in Tehran, especially regarding the prospects of restoring ties between Iran and Egypt and, more specifically, Iran's reply to Cairo's conditions.

Iranian sources say that although al-Asad's "initiative" is not the first of its kind, it shows that Iran and Syria are concerned about what is being cooked up by the United States in the region, depending on "Israeli disinformation," as the Iranian sources put it. The Iranian sources said forming a strategic axis among Tehran, Damascus, and Cairo would enable them to confront this conspiracy.

Tehran believes that the United States "is using the domestic situation in Iraq to enhance Jordan's position and give Israel access to the Gulf region. Also, the United States is using Saddam's weakness to bolster its military presence and prompt the Arab countries to strengthen their military alliances with Washington." Is it possible that these Iranian views reflect the regime's fear of an approaching threat?

A Western diplomat in Tehran says: "Despite the fact that official Iranian propaganda keeps saying that Iran plays a leading role in the Arab-Islamic world and the international arena, the truth is that Iran is experiencing terrible isolation in the world and the region. In addition, Iran does not have ties with influential sides, such as Washington, Tel Aviv, and Cairo. It has cool relations with Riyadh and Baghdad. The mullahs have not yet forgotten the humiliation they felt when they were excluded from the Damascus Declaration. The Damascus Declaration includes the six Gulf nations, Egypt, and Syria and is meant to protect these countries against the ambitions and threats of Iran and Iraq together.

Perhaps it was this concern that prompted the Iranian authorities to allow their newspapers to run the entire text of an article published by the Iraqi newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH. The article underscores common interests and enemies between Tehran and Baghdad and advises the mullahs to turn over a new leaf and establish a "tactical alliance" between the two neighbors.

It was observed that the Iranian conservative newspaper ABRAR took a step further when it published for the first time an editorial that points to the domino theory, arguing that the Islamic Republic could be next in line after the collapse of the regime of Saddam Husayn.

To maintain the flow of oil, on the one hand, and to protect the State of Israel and secure the reelection of Clinton, on the other, the U.S. Administration finds itself in need of replacing its traditional allies — particularly countries like Iran, Iraq, Syria, Libya, and Yemen — with new regional allies that are delegated to establish what Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres calls the new Middle East. ABRAR notes: However, toppling the Iraqi regime will lead to important changes in other countries. This is why Syria reinforced its military presence on the Iraqi borders.

To confront these challenges, the paper proposes "stronger cooperation between progressive countries in the region, which include countries like Egypt."

According to the same logic and out of fear of implementing the domino theory, which seriously worries Tehran, Iran, on is part, sent military reinforcements along the borders with Iraq, especially in the central sector where the 88th Mechanized Battalion is stationed in Kermanshah.

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While Iranian officials were announcing their rejection of establishing a pro-American regime in Baghdad, Tehran was resuming its contacts with Iraq and receiving an Iraqi delegation, headed by Sa'd 'Abd-al-Majid al-Faysal, first undersecretary of the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, to reactivate talks on normalizing relations, which this time seem to be very pressing and vital for the two regimes. Differences continue between the two countries on many issues such as war reparations, prisoners, the Iraqi planes that are in Tehran, and the border issue. Despite this, a ranking Iranian official told AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI that the primary, and probably the only hitch, lies in Tehran's insistence that Iraq stop supporting and sheltering Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization [MKO] and its demand that MKO leader Mas'ud Rajavi close his camps. Iraq has to choose between normalizing relations with Iran and supporting the Iranian opposition. Therefore, observers believe that the real sign for the beginning of normalization between the two countries will lie in Baghdad's stand on Rajavi. These observers do not rule out that a tragic accident might befall Rajavi that would result in his death, if Saddam Husayn really wants to form an alliance with Tehran.

Information from the MKO in Iraq says the leadership of this movement is now living with terror and apprehension and is seriously afraid that the Iraqi president will decide that saving his head will require sacrificing Rajavi's.

Presidency Referendum Called 'Democratic Stand'

JN2309112995 Baghdad INA in English 1020 GMT 23 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Sep 23, INA — Iraqi papers confirmed today that the referendum on the post of presidency is a democratic stand and practice and not a procedure to move towards democracy as some of the Western press media trying to describe wickedly as if Iraq was not democratic before.

BABIL paper said that the achievement of any democratic step is an element of solidarity to Iraq's national unity and strengthening its resistance of the Zionist-imperialist design as well as deepening its steadfastness against the unjust embargo and it is not a result of an outside pressure .

AL-QADISYIAH paper stressed that all the struggling stands of the Iraqi people since its uprising in the modern age until its big revolutions were democratic practices on the thinking and application level together, for it is impossible to isolate the constitutional legitimacy from the development of the revolutionary legitimacy.

It added that democracy is a need as well as a total view of life, and today it takes its practical dimension when the national struggle experience comes nearer to the outcomes of the different practices experience either on the level of choosing the leaderships of the vocational and popular organizations or nominating members of National Assembly.

Opposition Claims Education Minister Arrested

MM2209[illegible] ...on AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Sep 95 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Reports of Iraqi Minister's Arrest"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — An Iraqi opposition group has said that security forces in Baghdad have arrested Hammam 'Abd-al-Khaliq, minister for higher education and scientific research, as part of a campaign targeting a number of the state's senior officials who had close links with Staff General Husayn Kamil, son-in-law of the Iraqi president and industry minister in charge of the Military Industrialization Organization, who defected to Jordan last month. In a statement made in London on 21 September Hamid al-Bayati, representative of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, did not specify the date of the Iraqi minister's arrest but said 'Abd-al-Khaliq was the third Iraqi Government official to be arrested, after Transport and Communications Minister Ahmad Murtada and Irrigation Minister Nizar Jum'ah al-Qusayr, following the defection of the Iraqi president's son-in-law to Jordan. The campaign of arrests and investigation has also targeted general managers in the Military Industrialization Organization, the Ministries of Industry and Irrigation, and Former Oil Minister Safa' al-Habbubi. They are all accused of loyalty to Gen. Husayn Kamil or close collaboration with him prior to his defection from the Iraqi Government. In a related development, sources in the Iraqi Communist Party said Nizar Dhannun, senior official in the military industrialization authority, has also been arrested in Baghdad and held for questioning regarding his relationship with Husayn Kamil. The communist sources described Dhannun as "a staunch Husayn Kamil supporter in the Military Industrialization Organization who supervised black market exports of Iraqi oil to Iran and Jordan. These were the operations that Husayn Kamil undertook under the name of the military industrialization authority."

As a result, the Iraqi Communist Party in Britain has urged a meeting of Iraqi opposition forces and figures on 27 September "to discuss joint moves" to denounce what it called "the referendum farce" that President Saddam Husayn plams to hold on 15 October, with the aim of extending his leadership of the Iraqi state for seven more years.

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'Shortsighted People' Urged To Reconsider Stand

JN2309110595 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0700 GMT 23 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 23 Sep (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH asserts that many shortsighted people will have to reconsider their calculations regarding Iraq when they realize that the horse on which they placed their bets was a losing one.

In an article entitled "Political Irrelevance," the paper adds: Regardless of the obstacles placed by the UN Security Council at the behest of the United States and its allies, Iraq is bound to make its second leap once the embargo is lifted. The shortsighted will find out that the cards in their hands are worthless and insignificant.

The paper goes on to say: These people must reconsider their calculations before it is time for Iraq to make its second grand leap. Otherwise, they will have arrived late and find themselves in a state of political irrelevance worse than the state they are currently experiencing, which is marked by ambiguity, confusion, and distortion.

The paper says: True to its nature, Iraq is generous and tolerant. It places pan-Arab interests and human spirit above all considerations. It is true that Iraq is bearing numerous burdens. However, it will remain grateful to the sincere parties that extend a helping hand and show good faith. Iraq will reciprocate this trust.

The paper indicates that interest requires the demonstration of farsightedness so that people may know where to stand. This means that whoever questions Iraq's firm position will be undermining his own interests before anything else, the paper maintains.

The paper says Iraq will continue to be the focus of attention of the Arabs and the region. This is its fate and it has no complaints about this. Iraq is excited about this, because its immortal doctrine requires that it be upheld in the best possible manner. Iraq is making history, and the business of making history is not to be slighted, if only they knew.

Kurd Delegation Meets With Syrian Officials

JN2209114495 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus—Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al- Halim Khaddam received our Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] delegation in Damascus the afternoon of 20 September. The meeting lasted one hour.

The delegation comprised 'Izz-al-Din Birwari, Political Bureau member; Ramzi Sha'ban and 'Ali Sinjari, members of the party's Central Committee; and 'Umar Butani, official in charge of the party office and our representative in Syria.

Talks dealt with the current conditions in Kurdistan, Iraq, and the region. Our delegation explained the party's stand on current events and developments. Talks also covered dangers threatening Iraq and the region.

Viewpoints were identical on developments and on the various issues discussed, including the Iraqi opposition issues and Iraq's future.

Discussion also covered bilateral relations. It was decided to undertake the task of strengthening and perpetuating these relations and exchanging visits and views.

During the meeting, the Syrian vice president praised the role of our party leader, Mas'ud Barzani, and the KDP role in general.

Our party has continued its meeting with other Syrian officials to discuss bilateral relations and exchange views on various issues related to Iraq and the region. Views of both sides were identical.

We have just received a report that 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, received our KDP delegation at his office in the Ba'th Party National Command Building the morning of 21 September. The meeting lasted one hour. The two sides exchanged views and ideas on conditions in Kurdistan, Iraq, and the region.

Our party delegation explained the conditions in Iraq and the Iraqi Kurdistan region and the KDP stand on current problems and developments. The delegation noted the serious dangers that are threatening Iraq and the region, especially the Kurdish people.

Most of the ideas on issues discussed were identical. Emphasis was placed on preserving and developing bilateral party relations.

Al-Ahmar praised our party's firm stand, especially brother Mas'ud Barzani's stand, which al-Ahmar described as one of sincerity, firmness, wisdom, and clarity of vision. Al-Ahmar noted that the relations between the two parties are firm and events will not be able to harm them, but that these relations will continue to grow from day to day.

The problems of the Iraqi opposition and Iraq's future were also discussed. Views were exchanged on this subject. Both sides emphasized that the Iraqi opposition must rise to the level of its responsibility concerning the current conditions of the Iraqi people. Both sides stressed that Iraq in the future must be democratic, pluralistic, and independent, expressing the aspirations of the Iraqi people.

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Officials, Others View Signing of Taba Accord

Rabin Comments on Taba Agreement

TA2409153995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1322 GMT 24 Sep 95

[News conference by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin with domestic correspondents in his Tel Aviv office — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Rabin] As is known, an accord has been initialed on the implementation of the second stage of the agreement of the Declaration of Principles regarding Judaea and Samaria, the West Bank. This is part of an ongoing process based on the letter of invitation to the Madrid conference, whereby Israel would first reach an interim agreement in the territories enabling the Palestinians to run their own lives, and later negotiate the permanent solution.

Let me first make it clear that this government and I myself know where we are heading. We are heading toward a State of Israel as a Jewish state — not a binational state as the conception of the greater Eretz Yisra'el could imply — alongside a Palestinian entity that is not subject to us, not under our control, and lives in peaceful coexistence with us. The guidelines for the permanent solution are: no return to the 1967, the pre-Six-Day war lines, with the two major, but not exclusive, features being our desire that Israel's capital, the greater united Jerusalem, remain under Israeli sovereignty and that the Jordan River and Jordan Valley be our security border. This agreement enables the Palestinians to hold elections as we undertook to do in the Declaration of Principles, without a permanent Israeli presence in the Palestinian populated areas. If one looks at the initialed map, it includes about 30 percent of the A and B areas, namely the brown and yellow marked areas. The A areas are under the Palestinians' full responsibility, and they are the six cities and part of Hebron. The main areas — the B areas, the yellow — have a functional division: The Palestinians will run their civilian life, and Israel will have increased authority, responsibility for the safety of Israelis and for fighting against the threat of terror, not only terror activity. The rest, about 70 percent of the West Bank, will still be under Israeli rule, until agreements are reached on progressive redeployment.

I believe that this is a correct step in the direction of our ultimate goal — not the greater Eretz Yisra'el as a binational state, but a Jewish state that covers most areas of Eretz Yisra'el, with greater united Jerusalem as its capital and the Jordan Valley and Jordan River as its security border. We thus largely maintain the option of fighting terror and hand over responsibility for this to the Palestinians in those areas where they have full control — the six and a half mentioned towns. A Palestinian letter of undertaking will also be issued on their antiterror fight in those areas.

The negotiations were long. We started them in January of this year, and they peaked over the last week. Everybody who claims we rushed through them had better remember Camp David when President Carter brought the Egyptian and Israeli leaderships into complete isolation for 12-13 days at Camp David, and there too, they did not exactly sleep, but rather consolidated a position with U.S. mediation. I am happy and pleased that the negotiations with the Palestinians were bilateral, without U.S. constraints, and that they were instead based on the mutual responsibility of Israel and of the Palestinians who want peace, and not all of them want peace. The Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad murderers would probably want to torpedo this agreement. Again, we did what we did on a bilateral basis, with bilateral commitment, since without such a commitment the agreement would lack credibility and stability.

The subjects that were left to be done last were connected to security problems, and this morning, in a talk with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, when a question arose about our authority regarding security in the populated area outside the six and a half cities, we decided that if our request was not met we would not reach an agreement. I first want to thank the Israeli side, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres with whom I cooperated, and the entire negotiating team — and it would be complicated for me to begin to mention all names — as well as the Palestinian side, led by Palestinian Authority [PA] Chairman 'Arafat who understood there was a limit to his demands. I would also like to thank other elements who assisted us: Egypt, Jordan, the United States. According to my talk with President Clinton today, about 30 minutes, at the President's initiative, we will do everything we can to have a formal signing on this coming Thursday [28 September].

We decided to behave as the government had also done for the agreement on the Declaration of Principles of over two years ago, and the Gaza-Jericho First agreement, which were approved by the cabinet and then by the Knesset. This time, too, we will first sign the agreement, and as the government has done to date, cabinet approval will precede the formal signing in Washington. We will not repeat the Camp David precedent whereby the accord was signed there, in the presence of the prime minister and two ministers, without the accord having first been brought to the decision and approval of the entire cabinet and only then to the Knesset for endorsement. Therefore, although we

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are not bound to do so by law — but as was this government's practice in the past with regard to two previous agreements — we will bring the accord to the Knesset for endorsement.

[Qol Yisra'el's Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe] Mr. Prime Minister, the agreement was initialed today. Are you at peace about it; can you calm the Judaea and Samaria residents and tell them that their personal safety will not be harmed in the wake of this accord?

[Rabin] Let me repeat, I view this accord as a stage that, together with several additional stages, will advance us to the ultimate goal. I am convinced that the mix of Israelis and Palestinians in the territories and in Israel has created a paradise for terror. I want to bring about a separation for the State of Israel as a Jewish state with at least 85 percent of its population being Jewish — a state that can realize the dream of generations of Jews over the last 2,000 years who have dreamed of and prayed for the return to Zion, but have not dreamed of or pray for the establishment of a binational state with over 3 million Palestinians as its citizens, as opposed to 4.5 to 5 million Jews. I emphasized at the beginning of my statement: Within the framework of the permanent solution, our goal is a separation between a Palestinian entity in the territories that lives along our side, not under our control, and Israel as a Jewish state, but not at the expense of a return to the 1967 borders.

[Unidentified correspondent] A Jewish state with extensions into Hebron, for instance?

[Rabin] I am not dealing with the permanent solution at the moment. When I was prime minister in the last term, between 1974 and 1977, I prevented Jewish settlement in the old Jewish quarter in Hebron. Qiryat Arba' is the Jewish Hebron. I am not talking about the places holy to the Jews, such as the Cave of the Patriarchs and Rachel's Tomb, regarding which we made sure in this agreement that Jews' access for prayers will be undisturbed and safeguarded by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces].

[IDF Radio correspondent Ya'el Dan] Mr. Rabin, it is said that the move you are making together with Shim'on Peres will result in a Palestinian state. Will that not happen? This Palestinian entity you are talking about — will it not evolve into a Palestinian state within a short while?

[Rabin] At the moment, in order to fight terror and to find a solution to the long and complex conflict that has been filled with hatred and blood, which has been the worst component of the overall Israeli-Arab conflict — namely the Israeli-Palestinian conflict — the important thing, the solution is separation, two entities, not the greater Eretz Yisra'el which will turn us into a binational, intolerable state. Therefore, I will not deal at the moment with the form of this Palestinian entity that will not be under our control. I do not view it as a Palestinian state. I think that when we reach the permanent arrangement we will have to find a solution made up of three entities: Jordan and Israel as independent sovereign states, and the Palestinians as something less than that.

[Israel TV Channel 1's political correspondent Gadi Sukenik] Sir, you support a separation as a better solution than the current situation. Still, what should the 120,000-130,000 Israeli residents look forward to in the coming months?

[Rabin] In the coming months we will still be within the framework of the interim arrangement. One of the main delays this morning concerned security. The A area includes the six towns and part of Hebron that are under the PA's overall responsibility. The rest of the 30-percent area, about 28 percent of it, is an area with divided responsibility, where the Palestinians control the civilian sphere and Israel enjoys increased security authority with regard to its antiterror fight so as to allow the holding of elections without an Israeli military presence in the densely populated Palestinian areas. These two areas, the towns and rural areas, make up about 30 percent of Judaea and Samaria. About 70 percent will be under our continued rule, conditional on the continued IDF redeployment process and limited by the components of the permanent solution that concern the Israeli settlements, the Jerusalem problem, the refugee issue, the military facilities, and the borders [last word in English], as noted in the Declaration of Principles agreement. This gives us the maneuverability to achieve the government's goals, as I view them, with regard to the permanent solution.

[Unidentified correspondent] In your opinion, will not the risk regarding the safety of the Israeli residents in the territories, some of them at least, not increase in the wake of this agreement?

[Rabin] I do not want to say anything with absolute certainty. I hope the risk will not grow. Let me say the following though. As I view public argument in Israel today, the greater Eretz Yisra'el problem plays a marginal role in it. By your question too, the main problem is how to provide the settlements with security, and in this regard, one can surely question their being a security asset. I would say that the key problem, and justly so, is the problem of personal safety for the Israeli population, for those living in the territories, in the Judaea and Samaria areas, but primarily for those inside sovereign Israel, since most of the terrorist acts

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perpetrated since 1 January 1994 were not by 'Arafat's PLO. They stopped the terrorist activity. There were 119 Israelis murdered since that date, both civilians and those in uniform, of which 77 died in suicide attacks, mostly on sovereign Israeli territory, carried out by the enemies of peace who are opposed to the agreement between 'Arafat and us. Their way of disrupting if not totally stopping the process is through attacks in Israel. It is more important to them to attack within sovereign Israel where 97 percent of the Jewish population of the State of Israel lives, as opposed to the 3 percent that lives in the territories, on the Golan Heights, in Judaea and Samaria, and in the Gaza strip.

[Menashe] Mr. Prime Minister, are dates already set for the beginning of the IDF forces' evacuation?

[Rabin] If the PLO, the PA, intends to hold the elections only when we complete the arrangements in Hebron, if they insist on this, I doubt the elections can be held before the second half of March 1996.

Further on Rabin Comments

TA2409120195 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 Sep 95 p 7

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by David Makovsky; place and date not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Makovsky] In a broad sense, what do you see as the significance of this agreement with the Palestinians in the context of the Arab-Israel conflict?

[Rabin] I don't believe that, by signing diplomatic documents, you can get rid of the backlog of hatred, suspicion and bloodshed between the Arab countries, the Palestinians especially, and us. But the diplomatic papers are the door for a new era in which, hopefully by coexistence, we will be able within 10 to 30 years to reduce the effects of the long, bitter conflict between us and the Arab countries... The most complicated one is the Israeli- Palestinian conflict.

The question I put to myself is: "Where do you go from here?"

The ultimate targets for me are: to maintain Israel as a Jewish, not a binational, state; to agree — not without pain — to the existence of a Palestinian entity living in peace alongside Israel, in areas of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip where 2.2 million Palestinians reside; and to create a separation between Israel and this entity.

The two main issues for us are, first, not to return to the pre- 1967 war lines and (to keep) a united Jerusalem under Israeli sovereignty as our capital.

This is not related to security, but to what generations of Jews over 2,000 years prayed for: Jewish sovereignty over most of the area of the land of Israel and its capital — united Jerusalem.

Second, that the security border (should) be the Jordan River.

[In a special holiday interview with Hemi Shalev and Ben Kaspit in Tel Aviv MA'ARIV (ROSH HASHANA supplement) in Hebrew on 24 September on pages 2, 3, 4, Rabin alludes to the negotiations with the Palestinians, saying: "What happened in the Gaza Strip has strengthened our Palestinian partner and weakened Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. The Palestinians see that they are running their lives to the best of their ability. I want to give them hope. My idea of the permanent arrangement differs from that of 'Arafat's PLO. I look at the direction we are heading and how we are making progress, with my main concern being terrorism. Therefore, one town more or less will not decide things for me. I have no intention of making Nabulus, Ramallah, or Janin part of Israel."

[When asked about the recordings made of 'Arafat's recent speeches in which the PLO chairman made remarks in praise of terrorism, Rabin says: "I have no explanation and I take a very grave view of this matter. Therefore, we will not implement the Declaration of Principles without a clear date — two months after the establishment of the Palestinian Council — for the annulment of certain clauses in the Palestinian National Covenant. For me, that is the key to the future."

[MA'ARIV also questions Rabin about his personal attitude toward Yasir 'Arafat. In reply, the prime minister says: "We reached a decision, with me bearing responsibility in my capacity as prime minister, to view 'Arafat as our partner in resolving the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians. It is not a question of this or that attitude. We reached the fundamental conclusion that he is our partner and that with the Palestinians, the choice is between the PLO, which accepts 'Arafat's authority, or radical Islam. There is no third option."]

[Makovsky] If you say that genuine reconciliation with the Palestinians could take up to 30 years — a full generation — how do you manage the relationship with them during this big interim period? Do you foresee armed conflict in the years to come?

[Rabin] I believe it will be easier with the Arab countries than with the Palestinians... With the Palestinians, it will take longer. There might be ups and downs. This is the reason why we have to keep our military strength, and not cut our defense budget. I believe that the issue is

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not armed conflict but terror. They have to show more determination to cope with terror.

Let's face it, some of the most tragic suicide bombings — 'Afula, Hadera, Dizengoff, Ramat Gan, Jerusalem — came from the West Bank, while inspired in Damascus and Gaza. They were carried out by West Bankers.

[Makovsky] Last October, after the Dizengoff bombing, you spoke emphatically on the need for separation between Israel and the Palestinians.

After the Bet Lid bombing, you had committees set up to make recommendations for implementing separation. The whole thing fizzled out. Why?

[Rabin] There is a gradual separation. There is a fence in Gaza, and we reduced the number of Palestinians who work in Israel from a peak of between 120,000 and 140,000 to about 40,000. I cannot speak about separation without reference to the presence of Israelis in the centers of population in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Since I am committed to not moving any settlements during the interim period, I look at separation as a goal to be achieved in the context of permanent solution in the way that I describe a Palestinian entity not under Israel's rule, and not according to pre-'67 lines.

[Makovsky] Before Pessah, you said that you did not mind the Palestinians having a state in Gaza.

But at the same time you said that you knew of no Palestinians who would accept this. So your opposition to statehood is not absolute?

[Rabin] In the present context, it would be a mistake.

[Makovsky] Why?

[Rabin] I don't believe I have to elaborate. The present questions are: To what extent can the Palestinians cope with their problems on the civilian side? And are they able to prevent terror?

[Makovsky] Is it therefore fair to say that, if their performance is satisfactory, you would reexamine your views on the issue of statehood?

[Rabin] I did not say so. At this stage, I would say that I would examine the capability of the Palestinians at every step before taking any decision on the future.

[In another interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Shim'on Schiffer and Nahum Barne'a on pages 2, 3 in Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (ROSH HASHANA supplement) in Hebrew, the prime minister is asked whether he is still opposed to the establishment of a Palestinian state. In reply, Rabin states: "I am opposed to this now. I stress the word now. In the future we will search for all kinds of solutions."]

[Makovsky] You have said that your main doubt about this accord with the Palestinians is the level of cooperation between Israel and the PA against terrorism.

Are you confident that Israel's independent intelligence capability will remain strong until this vital issue of cooperation is sorted out?

[Rabin] There is no doubt that, in the areas of the towns, we will (redeploy, and) our capability will be reduced.

The main issue is not information, but the way to react to the information. At the same time, I can say that friction between us and the Palestinians on a daily basis, a weekly basis, will be reduced.

[Makovsky] Since the pre-state days, the Zionist ethos was one of self-reliance.

Now, Israel will be dependent upon another entity to help with its own security. Is this a different mind-set?

[Rabin] Did we ever have the right of retaliation following attacks from the Sinai after peace? When Palestinians attacked a bus from the Sinai, we dealt with the terror but we did not retaliate against Egypt. The same is true with Jordan.

[Makovsky] Yes, but both in terms of frequency and proximity, attacks from the territories are different from Sinai, and the trauma is different.

[Rabin] Yes, it is a different story, but we never retaliated against a partner with whom we were in agreement, even a limited agreement.

[Makovsky] What about problems of extradition?

[Rabin] So far, it does not work... (There's) no doubt that for (the PA) to give somebody to Israel by their own authority looks to be more difficult than they believed (when) they agreed to this article (of extradition, in May 1994).

[Makovsky] What makes you think that the PA will fulfill its obligation to extradite terror suspects in the future when Palestinian security official Muhammad Dahlan said they will never extradite any of them?

[Rabin] If they can never do it, then they have to think about catching (and jailing) some of them and then (we make sure) it will be difficult (for the PA) to release them.

[Referring to the same issue in the above mentioned YEDI'OT AHARONOT interview, Rabin says: "I want to distinguish between sentencing and extradition. I am not waving a banner of human rights and democracy

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in the Palestinians' face. I come with the banner of peace and security. Those are the things I care about and not the other issues. I do not care how they conduct their trials. I am not going to lecture or test them about human rights or legal procedures. They have military courts. I do not care how they do things as long as they hand down appropriate sentences and really jail the offenders."]

Those (terror suspects) they capture for (crimes committed in) areas under their control — it is their responsibility to bring them to their court. But if somebody does that who comes from an area not under (PA) control, (carries out an attack) and finds refuge in (PA) areas, it is a different story.

[Makovsky] How confident are you that the Palestinians won't make this the norm by committing acts of terrorism and then running to a Palestinian city of refuge?

[Rabin] I hope (that this will not be the case), but I cannot say for sure.

[Makovsky] Does Israel have any options in the event this agreement fails?

[Rabin] What we are doing is based upon the assumption that things will go according to the agreement.

I will not elaborate our means to cope with the problem if it does not go well.

[Makovsky] Is this agreement irreversible?

[Rabin] As I see it, we have passed the point of no return. There is a limit to predicting the future. This is why we have to keep strong military forces, a strong intelligence community and strong police.

[Makovsky] But when you refer to passing the point of no return, are you saying that Israel will not go back to the places for which it will now by pulling out?

[Rabin] I did not say so.

[Makovsky] So what does "the point of no return" mean?

[Rabin] It means that we are on the road to peace.

SETTLEMENTS, SETTLERS AND CRITICS

[Makovsky] You always invoke the Oslo accords in pledging that you will not move a single settlement during the interim period. But was that a wise decision? Perhaps Israel should have consolidated some settlements and abandoned isolated ones?

[Rabin] As a statesman or politician, it is not enough to come up with bright ideas. You have to be able to implement them. I think it would have been a mistake to start with this.

[Makovsky] A mistake from a domestic political view?

[Rabin] It would have been a mistake. During my term as prime minister between 1974 and 1977, I opposed any establishment of settlements in densely populated (Palestinian) areas except Qadum. Let's say the (Qadum) decision was a failure, but a limited one.

During my first term as prime minister, I opposed the establishment of a Jewish settlement in Hebron and did not allow it. I inherited many establishments that I would not have allowed, but I leave this all to (negotiations on) the permanent solution.

[When asked by the YEDI'OT AHARONOT interviewers whether Israel had given up on retaining the overriding responsibility for security in the agreement on Hebron, Rabin replies: "We never said that we should retain sole responsibility for security throughout all of Hebron just because of the 420 Jews who live there. Even after the massacre at the Cave of the Patriarchs we agreed to the stationing of 150 observers in the city, some of them armed. Clearly, a Palestinian element will have a role in guarding Palestinian areas where no friction with Israeli residents is expected or where Israelis come to pray as at the Cave of the Patriarchs. I hope there will be bypass roads for the settlements south of Hebron."]

Uprooting settlements is sensitive to all of us. I don't believe that the late Prime Minister Begin would have agreed to uproot settlements without signing a permanent peace agreement with Egypt.

[Makovsky] You seem to speak more and more approvingly of Menahem Begin.

Is this coincidental or do you now have greater appreciation for him as someone who made major sacrifices for complete territorial withdrawal?

[Rabin] I believe he had courage and imagination. I said it then, and voted for the Camp David accords; not like one of the people I admire more, Yig'al Allon, who abstained.

[Makovsky] Do you consider Menahem Begin one of the great prime ministers?

[Rabin] Yes, I consider him one of the great prime ministers because of his decision on peace. Let's face it, the real historic breakthrough in the relationship between Israel and the Arab peoples was the peace treaty with Egypt. Nobody can take that credit away from him.

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[Makovsky] Do you envision settlement blocs as being important to Israel as part of any final- status agreement with the Palestinians?

[Rabin] If I speak about blocs at this stage. I have to designate them. Area C (uninhabited rural areas, military installations and settlements) is a bigger area than the blocs, and therefore it would be a mistake to designate the blocs, because then the other side would come along and say: "You have the blocs, so give us the other (areas)."

When we get to the (next phase) of further redeployment, then we might have to go to the blocs... Then, we have to bring considerations of the permanent solution into account, and one of the elements is borders.

[Makovsky] How concerned are you about the polarization in society caused by this agreement? Do you think it is the responsibility of the prime minister to close this rift?

[Rabin] The way that I see it — and I hope that I am right — the issue (facing) the Israeli public is no longer the ideology of the "whole land of Israel" movement. This argument you do not hear too much.

You hear it here and there. (The settlers') outcry is that they are being abandoned. Nobody is speaking of them as a strategic asset. The two main ideological points — the "whole land of Israel" and the tremendous contribution of the settlers to the security of Israel — have almost evaporated.

The main issue that they raise, and rightly so, is personal security... But one has to bear in mind why this has become such an issue. The mixing up of Israelis and Palestinians in the territories has created (targets) for terrorists. Only separation can (provide a) sense of personal security. The opposition exploits this reality — which they created, by mixing up the populations more than they were before.

For me, the pioneers today are not the settlers. For me, the pioneers are those who bring aliya, absorb it and advance our society and economy. This is the fulfillment of the Zionist dream, to bring more Jews to Israel, to achieve the goal (whereby) more than half of the Jewish people live in the Jewish state.

[Makovsky] Even though you refuse to move settlements, spending over NIS [new Israeli shekels] 1 billion on new roads to protect them, the settlers and others feel delegitimized by what you say about them. I am sure they won't like it that you say they are not pioneers any more than being likened to spinning propellers.

[Rabin] I have a different view of what are pioneers in our period. I would not say that settling in Bet She'an (is pioneering) either. I can criticize them, but I don't delegitimize them. I don't believe they are the spirit of Zionism. By no means.

SYRIA

[Makovsky] Is the Egyptian model of full peace for full withdrawal a precedent for the Syrian negotiations?

[Rabin] I believe there is something in it, because this is the way that the Syrians speak. They ask, "Why should we get less than Egypt?" I am not saying it, but in the eyes of the Arab world, and no doubt in the eyes of the leaders of Syria, and the leaders of most of the world, the precedent of the price of peace that was paid by Israel for the achievement of peace with Egypt should be the basic principle in our negotiations with the Arab countries — where international boundaries were in existence even prior to the UN General Assembly partition plan in November 1947, (which) served later on as the basis of borders up to the '67 war.

[Makovsky] So it will be extremely difficult to break out of the Egyptian model in the Syrian negotiations?

[Rabin] It will be very difficult, judging from the Syrian position.

[Makovsky] The question, then, is not the price of peace with Syria but whether it is worth the price?

[Rabin] There is... a difference (between Sinai and the Golan in) geography and topography. The Sinai creates a really big buffer zone, which does not exist on the Golan Heights. Therefore, through security arrangements, we have to compensate for the issue of geography and topography.

[Makovsky] Can Israel agree to the idea of ground early- warning stations on the Golan, whereby real-time intelligence data are received from the Americans manning those stations?

[Rabin] I do not want to go into the details. As you know, our position is that there is a need for a ground warning station, without reference to (the location of) the exact borders... There is no agreement between Israel and Syria on this issue.

[Commenting on the Syrian track in his interview to YEDI'OT AHARONOT, Rabin says: "The situation with the Syrians is very complicated. They do not keep their promises to Secretary of State Christopher on resuming the officers' talks. I believe that this understanding should be kept. I hope the Americans will find a way. It is incomprehensible that Israel should be asked to dance to the Syrian tune every time."]

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[Makovsky] Do you see Iraq joining the peace process? If it did, would it change the calculus in Israel's negotiations with Syria?

[Rabin] Iraq has been under sanctions for almost five years. I am all for the continuation of the sanctions. I wish that there will be a change of attitude, a change of regime in Iraq. But to what extent it happens depends on the Iraqis.

I don't see the present regime in Iraq joining the peace process. I wish there would be a policy of an Iraqi government to change (its) attitude towards Israel and join in making peace with Israel.

FRICTION WITH EGYPT AND THE NEW MIDDLE EAST

[Makovsky] Egyptian-Israeli relations did not improve as expected after last spring's conference on nuclear non- proliferation. The NPT issue remains, and President Mubarak has made some tough statements which can be interpreted as opposing regional economic cooperation. Do you think he is just pandering to his regime's Islamic opponents?

Do you think the US has been derelict in not using all its sizable leverage to ensure that Egypt acts more responsibly toward Israel than it has recently? How concerned are you about the state of relations with Egypt?

[Rabin] I believe the problem started after we tackled the Palestinian issue (since Oslo). This created openness in the Arab world. There were elements in the Arab world, some of them in Egypt, who feared that some Arab (leaders) would come to Israel and normalize relations before we finish (formulating peace agreements) with our neighboring Arab countries and the Palestinians.

Second, the bright, positive idea of Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres of a new Middle East was twisted by many elements in the Arab world (who interpreted it as) an Israeli attempt to achieve economic hegemony in the Middle East. This was not our purpose. It is the opposite; our markets are not in the Arab world. By regional cooperation, we can achieve (much) for the Arab countries and the Arab peoples. But a paranoid attitude was developed, and a beginning of more openness was delayed by the general atmosphere.

Third, the (problems with Egypt are due to) stupidity of some Israelis in bringing up ugly stories from past wars with Egypt. This embarrassed the government of Egypt and I understand. They did not raise this issue. It was put on the table by Israelis.

I believe that basically the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] showed high norms of behavior in war. There were exceptions here and there; (there were) the same and more (committed) on the Arab side. To start to deal with this now is to poison the atmosphere between the Arab world and us. We created the problem for the Egyptian government.

[Makovsky] How do you make Israel's benign intentions for a new Middle East of regional economic cooperation clear to the Arabs?

[Rabin] Leave the generalities. Let's tackle things case by case. If something furthers cooperation, let's do it. Let's forget about general ideas and start to deal pragmatically.

[Makovsky] Can Israel accept the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and can it agree to halt nuclear production levels?

[Rabin] I believe we can join the prevention of nuclear tests (under) CTBT under certain conditions.

ISRAEL-DIASPORA RELATIONS

[Makovsky] There is an increasing minority of American Jews who are becoming more vocal in opposition to your policies. Are you concerned that this could harm Israel-Diaspora relations?

[Rabin] I believe there is a danger of increasing tension between segments of the American-Jewish community and Israel. It is unprecedented in the relationship between Israel and the American- Jewish community. I believe they have no right to patronize Israel. They have no right to intervene in the way that the people of Israel have decided, in a very democratic way, on which direction to go when it comes to peace and war.

They have the right to speak to us, but by no means to act, as Americans, against the policy of the government of Israel. No doubt there are among them, some who have children here, who serve in the army, but the bulk don't. Whoever does not have daughters or sons who serve in the army has no right to intervene or act on issues of war and peace.

[Makovsky] Shana Tova [Happy New Year], Mr. Prime Minister.

[Rabin] I wish the people of Israel a Shana Tova.

[In his interview to MA'ARIV, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin also discusses the Iranian nuclear threat to Israel and Tehran's plans to purchase nuclear reactors from Russia, saying: "Let me start off by stating in general that if asked what poses the greatest threat to peace and stability in the Middle East, I would say that it is not the

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enemies of the past but the wave of Khomeynist Islamic fundamentalism which is sweeping through the Arab and Muslim world. Iran is exporting Khomeynism to the Arab Muslim world in a very sophisticated fashion. Not like Iraq, which invaded, occupied, and annexed Kuwait. Khomeynism does not undermine the national pride of the Arab and Muslim nations. It represents a terrible world view for the individual, society, and the state. Their goal is to establish radical states under Muslim religious law everywhere. The main problem in promoting the peace process, most clearly with the Palestinians, is that of radical Islamic terrorism, Hamas and the Islamic Jihad. In Lebanon, Hizballah represents this dark wave and tries to achieve the same goal of perpetrating terrorism against us. There are attempts to undermine relatively moderate Arab Muslim regimes. The Egyptian representatives of this wave attempted to assassinate President Mubarak. They took over Sudan which became a launching pad for operations against North Africa as well as Israel. God forbid if something like this happens in Algeria. Algeria will become another Iran. International terrorism not only targets us. The same Islamic radicals struck twice in Buenos Aires, as well as in London, Turkey, against the Americans in the Twin Towers in Manhattan, and I also have reason to believe that the terrorism in France against French citizens and Jews is linked to this radical Islamic wave. This Iranian-sponsored terrorism is compounded by Iran's purchases of conventional weapons as well as chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons of mass destruction. I have no doubt that the building of nuclear reactors in Iran give them access to know-how they may not have otherwise received. The reactors will help Iran's nuclear plan. I do not see it happening soon and I do not know whether it will take 5 or 15 years, but the combination of these two elements: fanatical, Khomeynist Islam and Iran's military buildup constitute the most serious threat to stability, calm, and peace in the Middle East."]

[In the YEDI'OT AHARONOT interview, Rabin is asked whether he intends to run in the 1996 elections and replies that "has already made a decision on this but will not announce his decision at the present time." When asked whether his age may prove a drawback when campaigning against younger opponents, Rabin says: "I will not and cannot ignore the issue of age. However, I do not consider this a fundamental issue." Rabin adds: "If I felt in any way limited I would not take the responsibility of continuing in my post for even one more day as either prime minister or defense minister."

[When asked whether or not he fears that the Russian immigrant vote may topple the Labor Party in the 1996 elections, Rabin replies that the government has done an excellent job in absorbing the immigrants and providing them with jobs and housing.

[Prime Minister Rabin asserts that he "does not believe that it will be possible to bridge the gap between the government and the extremist, right-wing Jewish movements such as Zo Artzenu [This Is Our Land]." When asked whether he shares the Shin Bet's concern about the possibility of a physical attack on him or other cabinet ministers, Rabin says: "I very much hope that these fears do not become a reality; however, there is a great deal of anger and incitement among fringe elements. I do not blame the right-wing leadership for this, but thousands, or perhaps tens of thousands on the right-wing fringe hold radical views which could lead less sophisticated people to commit murder. We saw the case of Emil Grinzweig [Peace Now supporter murdered at rally in 1985]. It is a fact that such a thing has happened before.]

Peres on Taba, Oslo B Accord, Hebron

TA2309134995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0805 GMT 23 Sep 95

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Elat by Hayim Hecht in the studio and political correspondent Shlomo Raz in Elat — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Hecht] Good sabbath to Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Elat and to our political correspondent Shlomo Raz in the same hotel there. Mr. Minister, did you sleep well last night? Did you finally have a good rest?

[Peres] Yes, I slept very well, thank you.

[Raz] Mr. Peres, we have heard the president's remarks on the need to move on to the permanent arrangement stage with the Palestinians now. He has criticized the pace of the negotiations, the exhaustion involved, and the method in general.

[Peres] I am a little surprised by this criticism. Only those who conduct the negotiations and see how difficult it is to reach an interim arrangement can understand how unrealistic it is to talk of a permanent arrangement today. Second, what happened at Camp David? Everything there at the time was restricted and isolated from the rest of the world, and the U.S. President dictated many of the moves. For instance, it was he who determined the removal of the settlements; full autonomy, without deciding who will be in charge of security; the point about the Palestinian people [last two words in English]; and many other points. Nobody is dictating anything here. Generally, these are very difficult negotiations because a lot of emotion, rhetoric, fears, and expectations are involved. It is very difficult to bridge

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the differences. In my opinion, the talk I have been hearing is not anchored in reality, and I fail to see what power we are losing. I think that our withdrawal from Gaza strengthened rather than weakened us.

[Hecht] Sir, you are resuming the negotiations this evening. How close are we to signing the agreement?

[Peres] Look, we are both near and far. We are very close if an agreement is reached and very far if an agreement is not reached. The truth is that we have resolved almost all the weighty issues, and these are complex issues, unlike those at Camp David and in the Oslo A accord. The situation in Judaea and Samaria is much more complex.

[Raz] With your permission, Mr. Peres, let us touch on one of the complex issues that could still hold up the conclusion of the negotiations: the prisoners. It seems that in yesterday's meeting between Ministers Sarid and Shahal and Nabil Sha'th, the demand to release 3,000 prisoners, including murderers, was raised again. Can we accept such a demand?

[Peres] I do not want to address an issue that is still under negotiation. I believe we will find the right way on this issue, too. Let me add that the overall policy guiding us in these negotiations is not to hurt Israel's security in any way. Matters of honor and appearances are less important.

[Raz] In other words, the arrangements you reached on Hebron, according to which Israel gave up its demand to keep overall security in its hands and now talks only of the safety of the Israelis and of changes to the map....

[Peres, interrupting] Look, that is not the case. Israel did not have some whimsical desire to remain in the heart of Hebron. What for? The moment the solution of a bypass road was found, an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] presence in the heart of the city was no longer necessary, and this is the opinion of the IDF itself. The main reason for our presence in the center of Hebron was to safeguard the roads that link the large settlements to the big cities in order to ensure that Israelis would not be hurt on these roads; however, the two bypass roads — one from Bet Hagay to Qiryat Arba', which is under construction at the moment, and the other from Qiryat Arba' to Qarney Tzur, which is in the planning stage — will make it unnecessary to cross through Hebron and pointless for us to be in the center of the city. Therefore, we made no concession but rather found a much more logical and much safer solution, in terms of our security as well.

[Hecht] Sir, two members of your Knesset faction, Qahalani and Zissman, have raised doubts about their support for the agreement, and Deputy Minister Alex Goldfarb is hesitant as well. Is it clear to the Palestinians that the agreement is conditional and will not take effect before it is endorsed by the Knesset?

[Peres] First, it will not take effect before it is endorsed by the cabinet. Then it will be brought to the Knesset. The doubts about Qahalani and Zissman did not begin with the Oslo accord; they clearly represented an unknown even without this accord.

[Raz] Minister Peres, I want to ask you another question regarding unknowns. It seems that a few days ago, religious clerics — if that is the correct term — in Hebron issued a fatwa, a religious ruling, against 'Arafat. If something happens to him, do we have a partner for the continuation of this intensive effort?

[Peres] First, the term religious clerics is not necessarily representative of the situation in Hebron. They may be religious people, but as for their being religious clerics, this has not been established. As for the matter itself, it is clear that the Palestinian side has serious problems with the positions emanating from Hebron. These are generally very extreme positions. Politically, Hebron is behind the times. Many of its leaders still follow the mufti's policy. I met with some of them and told them: If you want to continue that policy, go ahead; you will ask for everything and get nothing. I also pointed out to them the change made by 'Arafat, which was the right thing for him to do. His deeds, not his words, are important. 'Arafat changed to political negotiations, which are proceeding by the appropriate gradual pace that enables us to check out each stage. One of the leaders in Hebron told me that 'Arafat is for peace. I told him that everybody is for peace, but the question is: Who is prepared to also shoulder the burden of peace and not just engage in mere rhetoric about peace? Peace as rhetoric is a common disease in the Middle East. Peace in practice, in the absence of dictates and with the need to bridge such intense feelings and such wide gaps, is very difficult to achieve. The country is not divided today; rather, it is bewildered. It is very difficult to divide things up in a way that will also provide peace to all the parties concerned.

[Hecht] Mr. Foreign Minister, thank you very much. Have a good sabbath and a good year.

[Peres] Allow me to take advantage of this opportunity to wish all listeners a happy and blessed new year. I know that many of the people will consider it great tidings for the new year if we manage to take another big step toward peace. I also want to promise everybody that we are doing everything we can, day and night, to crown this chapter with success.

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Likud Seeks Debate Before Signing

TA2309144995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 23 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Likud Knesset Member Eliyahu Ben- Elisar, the chairman of the party's political committee, said Foreign Minister Peres is distorting the spirit of the Camp David accords, which left all the area of Judaea and Samaria under Israeli control. The Likud Party has got the 30 necessary signatures for an urgent Knesset session to discuss the Taba agreement. Faction Chairman Moshe Qatzav said the details should be discussed prior to the signing ceremony in the United States.

Sharon Vows To Recoup Holy Sites

TA2409064595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 24 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Likud Knesset Member [MK] Ari'el Sharon says a Likud government will immediately act to restore Israeli control over certain places, such as the Cave of the Patriarchs, Shilo, and Bet El, that may be handed over to the Palestinians. Sharon said such moves will be carried out legally and democratically, and, hopefully, without the need for military action. According to Sharon, a Likud government will not respect the Oslo agreements, and will return to Israel responsibility for fighting terror, including in Gaza, while at the same time allowing the Palestinians what he termed to live their lives with a large degree of independence.

Sharon spoke last night to residents of Qiryat Arba' and settlers in Hebron, who held an emergency meeting on how to respond to the latest developments.

The settlers decided not to cooperate with any new security arrangements that are decided upon, and they called on soldiers to do likewise. Reporter Mark Weiss spoke with one of the speakers at the meeting, former MK Elyaqim Ha'etzni, and asked him to explain the decision:

[Begin recording] [Ha'etzni] We address all the soldiers, policemen, officers, and privates not to serve in the joint patrols with the terrorists, and not to serve, to resign, or not to obey orders telling them to collaborate with the terrorist enemy.

We also decided that any Jew who will be confronted by such a joint patrol will not only not obey the terrorist, but also the Israeli soldier or policeman who consorts and collaborates with the terrorists. And the roads which will be patrolled by these joint patrols will be secured by us, because we shall not heed to them.

[Weiss] Mr. Ha'etzni, isn't this a recipe for armed confrontation in Hebron?

[Ha'etzni] Don't ask me. You asked me what the resolutions were. The recipe the government now is concocting is for a second 1929, for a slaughter of the Jews in Hebron, and this is a recipe to protect ourselves.

Now, our resolution also warns the Arabs of Hebron — and the mayor at their head — that talk about transfer can work both ways. Those who scheme and demand to ethnically cleanse Hebron of Jews may meet the same fate as happened in 1948. [end recording]

Likud's Netanyahu Critical

TA2409175395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1345 GMT 24 Sep 95

[Telephone interview with Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu by correspondent 'Amiqam Rothman; place not given — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Rothman] Happy new year to you, Binyamin Netanyahu. You just heard the prime minister's news conference. Some defined the Taba achievement as a gift to the Israeli people on the eve of Rosh Hashanah. Do you accept this definition?

[Netanyahu] Woe to us with such a gift! This is far from being a present. This agreement of which the government boasts sets up another six cities, in addition to Gaza and Jericho, as havens for terror. It is an agreement that gives 'Arafat the right of veto over a third of the state's water, that transfers responsibility for our security and for antiterror fighting from the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] to the Palestinian Liberation Army [PLA], and also transfers full or partial control of very holy Jewish places to the PLO. I repeat, woe to us with such a present.

[Rothman] It was to be expected though, was it not?

[Netanyahu] I assume that what is expected is that, as usual, this government crosses every red line that it sets for itself, and that it is blackmailed in rushed, panicky, and irresponsible negotiations. Generally, one does not conduct negotiations in such a manner. Negotiations that deal with the most crucial issues for the future of the people and State of Israel especially, cannot be conducted this way. We will conduct them in a different manner.

[Rothman] Mr. Netanyahu, we will soon return to the point of how you would have conducted the negotiations. Still, what you just said and have repeated for nearly two years, since the Oslo A agreement was signed....

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[Netanyahu, interrupting] We repeat this indeed, and were we proven wrong?

[Rothman] Maybe so — look at Gaza, look at Jericho. Would you prefer to be in Gaza today?

[Netanyahu] I want to tell you, I would have handled Gaza in a different manner. I never particularly desired to rule Gaza, but I surely did not want to exit Gaza in this manner. After all, of what does the government boast? It says that we left Gaza, but Gaza has not left us. Gaza has turned into a haven for terrorists who plan their actions under 'Arafat's generous eye, depart from Gaza to murder our citizens, and return there. They are now returning to Jericho as well. Two youths were murdered in Wadi al-Qilt by terrorists who have fled to Jericho, and the IDF cannot enter Jericho since the previous agreement does not allow this. Now it will be impossible to enter Tulkarm; Qalqilyah, which is near Kefar Sava and Hadera; Ramallah and Bethlehem, which are close to Jerusalem; and so forth. In short, thanks to this government, we will have a chain of terror cities here which will arise just next to Israeli cities.

[Rothman] Still, a question that you have been asked for nearly two years and have not answered, a question that we also tried to pose to Mr. Shamir today — what proposal would you approach the Palestinians with in order to achieve peace? I am talking of a realistic proposal that would be acceptable to them too.

[Netanyahu] First, I do not set the rules governing what is acceptable to them, because if that were the case, David Ben-Gurion would not have founded and declared the State of Israel. Let me tell you that as a rule, if we look at what is acceptable to them, this state will not last very long, nothing much will be left of it for sure. Therefore, my rule is not what is acceptable to the Palestinians, but what is vital for us, for the State of Israel, for the Jewish state.

[Rothman] EDT Peace, for instance?

[Netanyahu] Peace is surely vital, but this agreement does not bring peace. When 170 Israelis are killed or murdered in terrorist acts; when people are afraid to embark exploding buses; when they are afraid to send children to kindergartens or to schools and demand armed guards; when they are afraid to hitchhike — is this peace? We all want true peace after all. Let me tell you: We began....

[Rothman, interrupting] What proposal can you have that will lead to true peace?

[Netanyahu] I will tell you momentarily. Our proposal is for true peace that will leave security in our hands and the heart of Eretz Yisra'el in our control. We will not be able to maintain peace here if we return to the 1967 borders as this government is doing. Do you know....

[Rothman, interrupting] Peace for two sides, Mr. Netanyahu.

[Netanyahu] Peace for both sides. I was at the United Nations, and I saw the enormous change that took place in the Arab world following our victory in the Six-Day War and in the following years, in the 1970's and 1980's. The peace that we obtained with the Arab world, with Egypt and later with Jordan and other countries, stems from recognition by parts of the Arab world that they would not be able to wage a war to annihilate us. This recognition is a result of the great victory that removed the border from the banks of Hayarkon River to the banks of the Jordan River. This is the peace that is being acquired with the joint efforts of the Israeli Governments, including alignment governments, and naturally thanks to the big breakthrough of the Likud government in the peace with Egypt at the time, and our breakthrough with regard to the Madrid conference.

What is the government doing now? In the name of peace it is returning us to the 1967 lines; you should have no doubt that if this government pursues this road it will return us to the 1967 borders, and this will kill off peace and return us to the state of war, to the fetal state that the government was in, like a defenseless fetus, with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], Fatah, and PLA forces controlling the hills and mountains above Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, and Haifa....

[Rothman, interrupting] You want to assume power after the upcoming elections. If you do, do you intend to implement this Oslo B agreement?

[Netanyahu] We will examine the situation on the ground. Agreements usually should be honored, but you know that 'Arafat did not fulfill the agreements after all, although many, including Rabin and Peres, I believe, want peace and hoped he would indeed fulfill them. We also see a continuation of terror, the inflammatory speeches, and the nonextradition of murderers. We will demand of every Arab partner to first fulfill the minimal conditions for peace. We will see whether they honor the agreement. What will guide us is primarily the State of Israel's interests. We will first take care of the security interests. We will resume responsibility for security. We shall insist on this, come what may.

[Rothman] Another question that I have asked of all my interviewees on this Rosh Hashanah eve program — I asked them to say a good word about their opponents. Do you have a good word about the left?

[Netanyahu] As for their intention, I have no doubt that they want true peace. As for the result, peace will

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regrettably not come in this way. The only alternative to where they are leading us, namely, the establishment of a Palestinian state on the 1967 borders, with half of Jerusalem as its capital, which is a recipe for war....

[Rothman] I asked for a good word, though.

[Netanyahu] I will give you a final good word soon, but you asked me about the alternative. The alternative is to return to what we sought in Madrid and what we will seek in the next government, God willing — namely, to autonomy, to autonomy in the urban centers, with the wide areas around them being under our control and with responsibility for overall security being in our hands, so that we can enter every place to prevent the murder of Israelis. I believe that the solution of autonomy rather than of a state, a solution that has guided us in the past and that will guide us in the future, is the only solution that can bring peace. I want to tell my opponents, who naturally do not agree with this: We should be partners in one thing, in concern — I assume this is your concern too — for the future and security of the state, for the unity of the people, and for conducting this struggle in a reasonable manner, like brothers who share the same common future which, I trust, will be good for all of us.

Opposition, Settlers, Others React

TA2409135695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 24 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] There is already some reaction to the Taba agreement. The Likud faction says that the agreement signed in Taba is a bad one. It is the result of the government's desire to sign it at all costs, and the State of Israel will pay a heavy price for it as a result.

The Tzomet faction says that Peres has established a Palestinian state in Taba and created a situation in which Israel's murderers will be able to flee into cities of safe haven.

The NRP [National Religious Party] says that the agreement means giving up the land of our forefathers and offers nothing to sweeten the bitter pill.

The Jewish settlers in Judaea and Samaria reject the Taba agreement. Our correspondent Ron Nesi'el reports that Aharon Domb, the spokesman for the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, says that the concessions made by Israel in the negotiations, especially on the Hebron issue, will endanger the lives of the Jewish settlers, and that the responsibility for all the disasters that will befall them will be the prime minister's and his ministers'.

The Hebron settlers say they will do everything they can to prevent the implementation of the accord. The Qiryat Arba' action committee announced that if the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] evacuates Hebron's military government building, which controls the town, the Jews will take it over.

Peace Now welcomes the Taba accord, saying that it is a nice gift for the holiday and the new year, which will increase security and bring Israel closer to full peace with the Palestinian people.

On Wednesday [27 September], the High Court of Justice will hear the appeal submitted by the Peace for Generations movement to delay the government's approval of the Taba agreement and the signing ceremony in Washington. Daniyel Yosef, a member of the movement's executive, a resident of Teqoa', told our correspondent Ron Nesi'el that the appeal submitted last week requires the Israeli Government and the Palestinian Authority to explain why the accord does not include guarantees for the safety of the Jewish and Arab residents in the territories.

Tensions Rising in West Bank in Wake of Taba

Demonstrators Arrested in Hebron

TA2209203795 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 22 Sep 95

[Territories correspondent Yoram Bin-Nur video report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Tensions were on the rise in Hebron today with the increasing possibility that the agreement in Taba would be signed.

Disturbances broke out in the town today and four demonstrators were arrested. Palestinian political elements opposed to Palestinian Authority [PA] Chairman Yasir 'Arafat issued a religious decree today prohibiting the PA chairman from giving control of the town to Israel.

Although the agreement has not been officially signed in Taba, echoes from the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations are clearly reverberating throughout Hebron.

In what has recently become an almost daily phenomenon, a group of youths rallied in the center of the town and threw stones at Israeli soldiers. The soldiers made arrests but refrained from firing their weapons or using force.

As the negotiations make progress, the huge chasm between Arabs and Jews in Hebron grows even wider. [passage omitted]

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Rioting in Hebron Following Signing

TA2409193995 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 24 Sep 95

[Video report by Yoram Kohen]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Arabs of the territories are divided about the Oslo B agreement. The supporters of the peace process call this is a historic day, while the opposition attacks 'Arafat for what it terms another failure of an agreement with the enemy. In Hebron, the Palestinians today reacted with anger to the agreement, and riots broke out there too. Our correspondent in the territories Yoram Kohen reports.

[Begin Kohen recording] The State of Palestine-Fatah offices — this is what is written on the sign at the entrance to the movement's offices in Ramallah. Members of Fatah's supreme leadership in the West Bank sat inside the building during the initialing ceremony and watched it on television. There was not a lot of excitement. These members are entrusted with the uneasy duty of convincing the West Bankers to support the Taba accord. [passage omitted] The street has not yet really heard about the accord. Opposition figures with whom we spoke this evening strongly attacked it, calling it an agreement of capitulation. [passage omitted]

The Hebron residents also followed the Taba ceremony with great interest. Riots broke out afterward as an expression of disappointment with the agreement. A decisive majority of the Hebron residents, including Fatah members, do not accept the agreement, which also means that the Jewish settlement inside Hebron will not be evacuated. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Four Slightly Injured in Hebron Riots

TA2309154695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 23 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Four Arab residents were injured in the course of stone-throwing incidents this afternoon in Policeman's Square in Hebron.

After IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers arrested an Arab resident suspected of throwing stones, the rioting grew worse and IDF and Border Police troops fired shots and used tear gas to disperse the rioters.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that four residents were slightly hurt in the melee. One man was shot in the leg and another three were beaten up. They were taken to Hebron's 'Aliyah Hospital for treatment.

Palestinian sources said the IDF arrested four people suspected of hurling stones.

Three Slightly Injured in Nabulus Riots

TA2309172495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 23 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Youths rioted this afternoon in Nabulus, hurling stones at IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the troops used tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse the rioters. Three of the rioters were slightly injured.

Nabulus Youth Reportedly Killed by IDF Fire

TA2409183395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 24 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Palestinian sources in Nabulus say an Arab youth was killed this afternoon by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] gunfire. According to the sources, the 19-year-old was throwing stones at soldiers who then fired upon him.

Closure Imposed on West Bank

TA2409062595 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Sep 95 p A4

[Report by Eytan Rabin and Ori Nir]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] On the eve of Rosh Hashanah, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] imposed a total closure on the West Bank and continued the closure imposed on the Gaza Strip. The security forces are on very high alert for fear of a terror attack by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] or the Islamic Jihad.

Over the past several days, steps have been taken to prevent attacks and dozens of activists of both organizations were arrested in the West Bank. The Palestinian Authority has announced that, following Israel's demand, dozens of Hamas activists have been arrested in the West Bank.

Isma'il Mustafa Hamid, a 25-year-old resident of the Qalandiyah refugee camp north of Jerusalem, was shot to death two days ago outside the camp. When he was brought to the hospital, Hamid was found to have suffered a serious wound to the stomach. Eye witnesses claim he was shot by a Jewish settler.

According to the witnesses, on that day soldiers were directing traffic to Qalandiyah because a fire broke out at a gas station on the Jerusalem-Ramallah road. The settler drove his car through the camp and, while it is not clear if he was attacked, got out of his car and fired several shots at a group of locals. The security forces have not confirmed this report. [passage omitted]

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'Military Siege' on Jericho Lifted

JN2209184595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli occupation forces lifted the military siege imposed on Jericho area this evening.

The occupation authorities clamped the siege on the area before noon today under the pretext that gunfire from an Arab car was aimed at an Israeli military roadblock to the south of Jericho city.

Security Forces Arrest Brother of 'Engineer'

TA2309184495 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 23 Sep 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The security forces arrested the brother of Yahya 'Ayyash, The Engineer, last night. The brother, 26-year-old Mar'i Latif 'Ayyash, was arrested at the family's home in the Samaria village of Rafat. The Engineer's mother has been under arrest at the Russian Compound in Jerusalem for several days.

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Shots Fired on Hotel Housing Israeli Embassy

JN2309081795 Amman AL-URDUN in Arabic 23 Sep 95 p 1

["Exclusive" report]

[FBIS Translated Text] An unidentified person has opened fire on the Forte Grand Hotel, where the Israeli Embassy is located. The incident took place on 18 September during the meetings of the refugees committee, which comprises delegations from Jordan, Palestine, Egypt, and Israel.

In a phone call, an eyewitness told AL-URDUN that a young man in blue jeans opened fire with a 9-mm handgun at 1900 on the facade of the hotel and the Israeli Embassy from the Queen Nur Street, opposite the parking area of the Third Square-Interior Ministry taxi service. The incident resulted in some windows being broken.

A hotel worker who requested anonymity said that at least 17 bullets hit the eastern facade, resulting in some material damage. The hotel management changed the windows on the same night of the incident.

Security sources said that the police are still looking for the assailant, who escaped without leaving any trace that might help the security agencies identify him.

The next day, the Israeli Embassy bought a four-story building for 800,000 dinars in cash in the al-Rabiyah neighborhood near the Chinese Embassy. The deal was registered at the Land Registration and Survey Department within two hours, for it was feared that the seller, who belongs to a known family with a renowned patriotic record, might change his opinion and call off the deal.

It is worth mentioning that the Israeli Embassy, which chose the Forte Grand as the venue of its offices upon its inauguration, has been trying hard to buy or rent a building of its own.

The embassy is expected to move to the new location after the completion of fortification work at the new offices.

'Arafat Arrives for Talks With Crown Prince

JN2509052495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0500 GMT 25 Sep 95

[From the "New Day" feature]

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat will arrive in Amman from Cairo this morning for talks with Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan on the Palestinian-Israeli Taba agreement.

While in Cairo, President 'Arafat held talks with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak on the latest developments of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations after the conclusion of the Taba agreement on the implementation of the second stage of the Declaration of Principles.

Prince Hasan Welcomes 'Arafat

JN2509072595 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0700 GMT 25 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, received Yasir 'Arafat, head of the Palestinian Authority, upon his arrival in Amman this morning on a visit to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. 'Arafat is accompanied by Palestinian Culture Minister Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh.

Mr. 'Arafat will hold talks with His Highness Crown Prince Hasan on the latest developments in the region. He will also brief Prince Hasan on the details of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement on the expansion of autonomy in the West Bank.

'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah, deputy prime minister and minister of education, and Dr. Khalid al-Karaki, deputy prime minister and minister of information, also welcomed 'Arafat upon his arrival.

Paper Publishes Key Points of Taba Agreement

JN2509114695 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 25 Sep 95 p 12

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Following are the main points of the agreement concluded Sunday [24 September] by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to extend autonomy across the West Bank.

ELECTIONS: The autonomy council will have 82 members elected by the Palestinians of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem. The president of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) [PA] will be elected directly at the same time as the vote for the council which will take place 22 days after the first redeployment by the Israeli army. Palestinians living in East Jerusalem will vote under special arrangements. They can only be elected to the council if they have a second address on the West Bank or the Gaza Strip. Observers from the United Nations, the European Union, the United States, Russia, Canada Egypt, Japan, Jordan, Norway, South Africa, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Organisation of African Unity and the Organisation of the Islamic Conference will ensure free and fair elections.

PALESTINIAN COUNCIL: With the establishment of the council, the Israeli military government will be withdrawn and the administration dissolved. Legislative

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powers will be exercised by the council and executive powers by a committee—the Executive Authority—made up of council members and a small number of appointed officials.

SECURITY AND REDEPLOYMENT: Israel will withdraw troops from Area A—Ramallah, Bethlehem, Nablus, Tulkarim, Jenin and Qalqiliya and redeploy in Hebron. Israeli troops will also pull out of 450 West Bank villages: Area B. "At the end of this redeployment there will be almost no Israel Defence Force presence in Palestinian population centres." The Palestinians will take charge of internal security and public order in Area A. They will maintain public order in Area B. They will have civil responsibilities in both areas and 25 police stations. But Israel will retain overall responsibility for external security, Israelis and the settlements across the West Bank and combat extremism in Area B. In Area C—unpopulated areas of strategic importance to Israel— full security and public order responsibility will remain with Israel, but the council will have civil responsibilities such as economics, health and education.

FURTHER REDEPLOYMENTS: To take place at six month interval after the election.

PLO COVENANT: Within two months of the Council's inauguration, the PLO to revoke covenant articles calling for the destruction of the State of Israel.

SECURITY POLICY: 12,000 police will be deployed on the West Bank as the sole Palestinian security force to maintain public order, confiscate illegal weapons and fight terrorism. Joint patrols will ensure free and secure movement on designated roads in Area A. Joint Mobile Units will serve as a rapid response in case of incidents.

FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT FOR ISRAELIS: In Area A Israeli vehicles will be escorted by joint patrols. Palestinians cannot arrest Israelis but can check their identity and vehicle documentation.

RELIGIOUS SITES: Responsibility to be transferred to the Palestinians, but only gradually in Area C. Some sites will be negotiated under the final talks on a permanent status which are to start by next May. Guaranteed freedom of access and worship and practice for Jews, Christians, Muslims and Samaritans. The Israeli army will keep control of Hebron's Tomb of the Patriarchs. Special arrangements at Rachel's tomb in Bethlehem. Joseph's tomb in Nablus.

HEBRON: Israel will guard Jewish residents and their movements and maintain overall responsibility for their safety. Redeployment will be completed no later than six months after the signing of the agreement. Israel will keep control over the Tomb of the Patriarchs. There will be a "temporary international presence" in Hebron.

WATER: The Palestinian share of water supplies will increased by 28 million cubic metres. A joint water committee will manage resources and prevent uncontrolled drilling.

RELEASE OF PRISONERS: Israel will free Palestinian prisoners in three stages—upon the signing of the accord, on eve of elections and once more "according to principles which will be established separately." A joint committee will discuss the release details.

Paper on Taba Accord, 'Important Step'

JN2509094195 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 25 Sep 95 p 17

[Editorial: The Self-Rule Expansion Agreement and the Pan- Arab Need"]

[FBIS Translated Text] By initialing the Palestinian-Israeli agreement on the expansion of self-rule in the West Bank, the peace process takes another important step toward a comprehensive peace that leads to stability and cooperation.

Expanding self-rule adds new responsibilities to the Palestinian Authority. It also increases the Palestinian people's hopes for freedom and an end to the long suffering brought about by the occupation. This expansion requires that the Palestinian Authority expedite cooperation with those who extend support for it in the region.

Since the start of occupation, our kinsmen in the occupied West Bank and the rest of the occupied territories have seen Jordan's pan-Arab role. Continuing to play this role on clear and agreed- upon foundations between the two sides is a pressing need now. This is in light of the additional responsibilities to be assumed by the Palestinian Authority after expansion of self-rule.

Peace necessitates a new pattern of regional relations. The region expects international understanding and support for development projects through investment. Therefore, bolstering Palestinian-Jordanian ties is a pressing demand. This will lead to greater inter-Arab cooperation, inspired by the new Arab model that should materialize soon between Jordan and the Palestinians.

While we raise great expectations for our people under peace, security, and stability, we hope that the negotiations will achieve a just and comprehensive peace on all tracks. We also hope that there will be no doubts or misgivings when we raise the issue of cooperation and coordination among the Arab countries. The lack of cooperation and coordination entails many risks and

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possible losses. We are headed for a new pattern in regional relations against the backdrop of peace and the major world upheavals since the end of the Cold War.

We have high hopes that others will emulate the pilot model of Jordanian-Palestinian relations in a new stage that affects the Middle East as a whole.

Editorial Commends Taba Agreement

JN2509103895 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 25 Sep 95 pp 1, 21

[Editorial: "The Palestinian-Israeli Agreement Is an Important Step Toward Peace"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian-Israeli agreement initialed yesterday is a significant turning point toward the implementation of an important part of the Oslo agreement. This agreement is the culmination of tedious and tiresome negotiations between the two parties, who used all kinds of negotiating weapons so that each would make the least concessions to render this round a success. Even though it came late, this round is an inevitable introduction to the implementation of the Oslo agreement and a guarantee of at least the minimum of Palestinian rights without which the peace process can neither continue nor live up to the hopes pinned on it.

This round preceded the anticipated elections of both negotiating sides. Palestinian elections will be held within a few months; the same applies to the Israeli elections. This required strict attention by both sides of the negotiations with regard to even the tiniest of details because each of them had an eye on the ballots that would determine the form of the peace process during the coming phase.

It is no secret that the intensive U.S. pressure and intervention to produce clear and well-defined results before the proposed signing date of 28 September in Washington contributed effectively to the postponement of some sticking points in order to guarantee results that would alleviate feelings of frustration among the Palestinians and advance the peace process steps in the right direction.

At any rate, regardless of any negative points in its provisions, yesterday's agreement should be viewed as a significant step on the road to peace.

UN 'Rejected' PLO Request To Import Iraq Oil

JN2509100295 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 25 Sep 95 p 25

[Report by Mahmud Mashariqah in Amman]

[FBIS Translated Text] Informed sources said the UN Sanctions Committee rejected a PLO request to import unspecified quantities of Iraqi oil via Jordan to the self-rule authority areas.

This rejection contradicts news agencies' reports quoting Palestinian Finance Minister Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi as saying recently that the Palestinian Authority will receive the first shipment of Iraqi oil next month.

These sources said the PLO request was kept unofficial, and said the United States hinted to the Sanctions Committee members before the request becomes official not to approve it now.

Palestinian sources said the PLO received consent from the U.S. Administration on this subject, but the Administration changed its mind after 8 August when a number of Iraqi officials defected to Jordan.

A reliable Iraqi source said the talk about exporting Iraqi oil to the Palestinian territories is premature, especially since the PLO has not yet received UN approval.

Iraqi Trade Minister Reportedly Pays Secret Visit

JN2309101695 Amman AL-URDUN in Arabic 23 Sep 95 p 4

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-URDUN has learned that Iraqi Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih paid a secret visit to Jordan last week. The visit lasted several days.

The objectives of and reasons for the visit have not been revealed. The Iraqi minister met with a number of Jordanian officials. AL-URDUN has learned that Industry and Trade Minister 'Ali Abu-al-Raghib and Supply Minister 'Adil al-Qudah are among those who met with the Iraqi official.

However, informed sources said that the meetings were aimed at discussing cooperation and trade between Jordan and Iraq in light of the recent developments in the region. The sources did not rule out that the visit might have been aimed at reformulating the economic and trade ties between the two countries.

For its part, the Iraqi Embassy in Amman confirmed the Iraqi trade minister's visit. However, an embassy

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official said that the Iraqi minister had arrived in Jordan en route to another country.

The source neither confirmed nor denied Minister Salih's meeting with a number of Jordanian officials.

Al-Kabariti Defends Policy on Iraq, Other Areas

NC2409072195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2035 GMT 23 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 23 Sep (MENA)—Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti has stressed that his country has a role that it will continue to play to serve its interests, whether this angers or satisfies others. He added: We do not know what else we can do in our relations with some of our Arab brothers. When our and their positions are in agreement they say that Jordan is trying to play a role bigger than its size, and when our and their positions are not in agreement they accuse Jordan of departing from inter-Arab coordination and consensus.

In an interview with AL-WAFD, the mouthpiece of the Wafd Party, to be published tomorrow, Sunday [24 September], al-Kabariti noted that some view Jordan as a country with a population of not more than 4 million people. They want to deny Jordan the right to make a decision and to prevent Jordan from playing the natural role it chooses for itself. He added: We believe that Jordan cannot be measured by its population, but by the role it plays and the cause and message it upholds. We insist on exercising this role the way we believe will serve our interests, and we absolutely do not accept anyone dictating his will to us.

Regarding the situation in Iraq, al-Kabariti stated that it concerns all the Arab states and that we are concerned with the internal situation in Iraq and human rights there. He added: We believe that taking an interest in Arab human rights is the responsibility of all Arab states and regimes, and it is not an intervention in the internal affairs of Arab states. He added: If there is a vision that calls for nonintervention in Iraq's affairs and at the same time ensures the basic rights of the Iraqi people and the territorial integrity and Arab sovereignty over its territories, we are prepared for coordination and consultations. However, he hastened to add: Although we realize that in the final analysis all this will not necessarily result in an agreement, we do not mind sitting down and calling for a discussion regarding preserving the unity and territorial integrity of Iraq.

Al-Kabariti was asked about the recent Jordanian moves, which gave the impression that Jordan is practicing some sort of custodianship over Iraq by talking about human rights and freedoms. He said: When we raised the idea of reconciliation, we were reminded of the principle of frankness, and when we talked about frankness, they [not further specified] suggested that Jordan should start the handshake. Jordan started the handshake and the frankness, and it insists on reconciliation on clear and solid foundations.

He noted that Jordan is ready to side with any concrete Arab view. He added: We support them when they say the stance on Iraq must be based on legal Arab and international resolutions, but for them to say that talk about human rights, freedoms, unity and territorial integrity is not part of Arab and international legality is both rejected and unacceptable.

Regarding the economic summit in Amman, al-Kabariti stressed that so far the response his country has received from all countries invited to the summit is positive.

Paper: Qatar Amir, Rabin Met 'Secretly' in Amman

JN2509094695 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 25 Sep 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-MAJD learned that a lengthy meeting between Qatari Amir Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin was held secretly.

Information available to AL-MAJD indicates that the meeting, the first of its kind, was shrouded in total secrecy. The meeting took place in Amman with high-level Jordanian participation and patronage during the amir's short visit to Jordan on 13 September.

Rabin arrived in Amman aboard a military helicopter, along with some of his senior aides. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres was not one of them. After the meeting, Rabin left Amman immediately for Israel.

No information is available on what took place at the meeting. The participants are believed to have discussed a host of economic and political issues, primarily the future of Qatari-Israeli ties and Jordanian-Qatari-Israeli cooperation in the investment of natural gas that is planned to be exported to al-'Aqabah and Elat.

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Buwayz Denies Country Will Accept Palestinians

NC2209141695 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 Sep 95

[Statement by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz in response to questions by unidentified correspondent following a meeting with Ahmud Swaley Kasenally, Mauritian minister of energy, water resources, and posts, in Beirut on 22 September—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Correspondent] Could we ask a question about the announcement by the Arab League secretary general in which he said that Lebanon has agreed to admit the Palestinians who were expelled from Libya. He made this announcement yesterday in Cairo. Is this true?

[Buwayz] I believe that the secretary general did not consult with us on this issue. He has expressed his own expectation that perhaps after this wave is over—some individual, humanitarian, and other cases might be discussed.

Decree Issued Regulating Palestinians' Entry

NC2209194795 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 22 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Interior Ministry has issued a decree, numbered 478, regulating the entry and exit of Palestinians into and out of Lebanon, according to the Cabinet decision made on 12 September 1995. At that meeting, the Cabinet approved the measures adopted concerning Palestinians and instructed the Interior Ministry to take the necessary measures and arrangements in this regard, at the recommendation of the Director General of Public Security. The following is the text of the decree:

Pursuant to Decree 6,812 dated 25 May 1995, the law passed on 10 July 1962, decree 10,188 dated 28 July 1962, and the Cabinet decree issued on 12 September 1995, in which the measures adopted regarding the Palestinians were approved and the Interior Ministry was instructed to take the necessary measures and arrangements in this regard, at the recommendation of the director general of the Public Security Department; the Interior minister decrees the following:

Article 1

Palestinians who took refuge in Lebanon in 1948 who wish to leave the country must obtain a one-time or multiple exit and reentry visa, to be given to them by the competent Public Security quarters against the payment of the legally specified fee. A service memorandum to be issued by the Public Security Director General shall specify the procedures for applying for and granting this visa.

Article 2

Palestinians of this category who are outside Lebanese territories must obtain an entry visa to the country through the Lebanese diplomatic missions at the countries in which they reside. This visa shall be granted following the approval of the Public Security General Directorate through the Foreign Ministry. Palestinians who took refuge in Lebanon in 1948 who live in the Syrian Arab Republic and hold permanent or annual Syrian residence permits shall be excepted from applying for such visas. They shall be permitted to enter the country on the basis of these permits, provided they are told upon entry that they must obtain new travel documents or laissez-passers bearing the visa specified in Article 1 of this law after payment of the legally specified fee. Those of them who hold these documents shall be told of the need to obtain this visa according to the procedures.

Article 3

Palestinians who took refuge in Lebanon in 1948 must use a travel document or a laissez-passer to leave the country after obtaining the necessary visas, in accordance with Article 1 of this law, regardless of the country they are travelling to.

Article 4

Palestinians who left Lebanon after 1 June 1995 shall be exempted from applying for an entry visa. They are to proceed to the Public Security's border centers and offices, which will stamp their documents according to the ordinary procedures.

Article 5

Heads of the diplomatic and consular missions are authorized to renew for one year the documents and laissez-passers which are carried by Palestinians and which are issued after 1 January 1990 without obtaining the prior approval of the Public Security General Directorate. These missions are to forward the identity cards on which basis the renewal was granted to the Public Security General Directorate for verification and adoption of the necessary measures. Applications for the renewal of documents and laissez-passers issued before 1 January 1990 must be forwarded to the Public Security General Directorate to obtain its prior approval.

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Article 6

All applicable procedures concerning applications to obtain new travel documents or laissez-passers or renew them shall remain in force without any modification.

Article 7

This decree goes into effect immediately upon its issuance and shall be notified when necessary.

Birri: Chamber Divided Over Presidential Term

NC2509080195 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 25 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Despite signals in the past two weeks that it is more likely the president's term will be extended than anything else, the opponents of this option are maintaining their position and becoming more outspoken by the day. Proponents and supporters of extension, who have thus far failed to form a strong bloc to push for it, are not increasing. Observers surmise from events of the past two days that no final decision on extending the presidential term has been made, while some observers say that it is no longer on the table and that developments have occurred that will boost the option of electing a new president. [passage omitted]

Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri has stated that the decision as to who will be the next president must reflect national accord. He said three opinions exist in the Chamber of Deputies: One minority favors amending one paragraph of the Constitution, another favors amending two paragraphs, and a third favors electing a new president. He added that none of these opinions constitutes a majority.

Birri called for a new election law based on a single constituency. He held the state responsible for eliminating the traces of the war and carrying out projects to modernize the service sector. [passage omitted]

Economy Minister Views Progress of Recovery

MM2509103695 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Sep 95 p 12

[Report on interview with Economy Minister Yasin Jabir by Yusuf Shakir in Cairo; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Lebanese Economy Minister Yasin Jabir has reiterated his country's refusal to participate in the Amman economic summit, despite the pressures that are being exerted on Beirut in this respect.

In an interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Minister Jabir pointed out that his country has decided to attend the conference on cooperation among the Mediterranean countries, which is scheduled to be held in Barcelona in November, "despite Israel's participation in that conference." He pointed out that "the situation in Barcelona differs from that in Amman," because the Mediterranean cooperation conference is international, and participation in its activities does not place Lebanon under any commitment such as cooperation with sides with which it refuses to establish relations, at least in the current period.

Minister Jabir said that the Mediterranean conference's cooperation with Europe was unlikely to be at the expense of Arab economic cooperation, pointing out that the Barcelona economic gathering will help to activate Arab economic cooperation, provided "that the Arab countries participating in it succeed in coordinating their stands as one coherent regional bloc prior to the convocation of the Barcelona conference."

Asked if it was possible to devise a compromise formula which would reverse Beirut's decision to boycott the Amman conference, Minister Jabir said that the Amman conference, and for that matter any regional conference aimed at drawing up plans for economic cooperation with Israel, is a gathering in which Lebanon cannot participate while part of its southern area remains under the occupation of Israel, which has adopted an obstinate stand and has shown no sign of wishing to demonstrate good intentions toward peace with all its neighbors.

He added that concentration on inter-Arab economic cooperation was more worthy of attention, particularly in the current stage. This was because the changes that have taken place make it imperative to set up a common Arab market before joining a Mediterranean market, which would serve the interests of other sides at the expense of the Arab area. He pointed out that it was because of this that Beirut has been seeking cooperation with Damascus with a view to creating a free trade exchange zone between them, as a nucleus for a common Arab market and as an alternative to any projects that conflict with the interests of the Arab area.

He pointed out that speedy steps were taken in this regard with Syria through the conclusion of joint agreements covering the fields of economy, taxation, and customs. This is in addition to the constant increase in the exchange of customs-exempt goods between the two countries as well as in the fields of tourism, agriculture, and industry through huge projects financed by Lebanese and Syrian businessmen.

Speaking about economic conditions in his country, Minister Yasin Jabir pointed out that Lebanon had come through a difficult period which had led to losses of billions of dollars and the destruction of most of Lebanon's infrastructure as a result of the war — a fact which had prevented Lebanon from keeping abreast of economic changes in the region. But, he added, Lebanon

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was now passing through the stage of equipping itself and repairing the damage to its infrastructure so as to place itself once more on the map.

Minister Jabir said that his country was confronting acute problems in the fields of electric power, sewerage, water, and population explosion unmatched by a similar increase in services owing to the war. Furthermore the war had prevented the construction of any new roads or the building of any new residential districts or any new real estate projects, indeed its effect had rather been to the contrary, because it had destroyed most of what was already built.

Yasin Jabir admitted that the rebuilding of Lebanon's infrastructure and the work of reequipping the country had been facing mammoth problems because of the vast amounts of money needed to finance the reconstruction operation, pointing out that the burden of these problems had doubled as a result of the sharp reduction in the aid that Lebanon has been receiving in comparison with the aid it received previously in this respect.

Yasin Jabir pointed out that the volume of aid had dropped from $2 billion to less than $300 million and that the Lebanon reconstruction fund, set up with the participation of the Arab countries, had failed to realize the hopes pinned on it in the reconstruction projects because most of the founders had failed to pay their share of contributions to the fund. He said that Saudi Arabia and Kuwait occupied the prominent place among the Arab countries in terms of contributions to the Lebanon reconstruction operation in the past period.

The Lebanese Minister of Economy said that, in addition to the scarcity of aid and grants which Lebanon has received for financing its reconstruction operation, the continued barbaric shelling of the villages of southern Lebanon by the Israeli occupation forces has led to an influx of about 400,000 people into Beirut, thereby further disrupting the reconstruction plans.

He pointed out that, despite the obstacles and problems and the scarcity of aid, the reconstruction plan was proceeding at a good pace in several areas through joint financing by the government and the private sector in addition to loans from international organizations.

He said that the list of reconstruction projects scheduled for implementation in the coming stage includes completion of the construction of a power station, which will be able to provide electric power to most areas, by the end of the current year.

In this regard it is noteworthy that two electric power stations were being built at al-Zahrani and at al-Badawi at a cost of $250 million. He added that the reconstruction plan also covers the modernization of the water network and the reopening and development of the historic and tourist areas, providing them with all necessary equipment, in addition to the construction of the telephone network before the end of the current year. He added that this would provide one million telephone lines for a number of huge real estate and construction projects aimed at the rebuilding of the center of the capital and the construction of adequate buildings for banks, hotels, and trade centers. Minister Jabir said that it is intended to ask the private sector to participate in the rebuilding operation, as is happening with the Solidair company.

Minister Jabir pointed out that the Lebanese cabinet a short while ago approved the Burj Hammud project for garbage-disposal and waste-water treatment plants and for the reclamation of an area of sea to secure more land for northward expansion, and the sale of the project as a joint-stock company. This is in addition to the project for the expansion and development of the port of Sidon and the creation of a free-trade zone there; and the al-Yasar project for the reorganization of the south Beirut area through the removal of illegally constructed buildings and the rehousing of citizens there and the projects for the construction of a $1-million beltway, the expansion of the Beirut Airport through the construction of a runway out to sea, and the establishment of a sports city in Beirut, he added.

The Lebanese Minister of Economy also said that he expected the Lebanese private sector and Arab and foreign businessmen and investors to allocate #20 billion for participation in Lebanon's huge reconstruction projects and that investments would increase in later years by 32 percent, particularly since Lebanon has a robust banking sector which had remained stable despite the years of war and also since the Lebanese Government had bolstered the economic situation by enacting tax and customs exemption legislation to attract capital — the most important examples being the legislation limiting the maxim level of taxes paid by companies and persons to only 10 percent of profits, the laws exempting from taxes all profits made from trading in shares in the stock-exchange, and the legislation permitting foreign companies to open branches in Beirut directly without the need for agents.

The Lebanese minister denied that Lebanon would have any problem in securing loans from the international financial establishment to cover the cost of the reconstruction operation, as everybody knows that throughout its life Lebanon has always pursued a system of free economy and unrestricted openness on the world markets.

He pointed out that Beirut has recently concluded an agreement with the International Bank [as published]

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under which it would secure a loan of $20 million for the modernization of the Lebanese Administration and another loan for financing the establishment of a commercial information center at the Economy Ministry to facilitate investment procedures for businessmen and investors.

Yasin Jabir disclosed that the Beirut Stock Exchange, which is the second-oldest Arab stock exchange after Alexandria, will this week resume its activities, brought to a standstill by of the war, with a list of seven companies qualified to offer shares for dealing on the exchange as a prelude to the gradual resumption of activity in the Beirut money markets.

The Lebanese minister also said that he expects the private sector to launch a number of companies and to offer their shares for public subscription through the stock exchange, whose dealings are expected to multiply during its first year of resumed activity, particularly as it will create new investment opportunities for Lebanese investors abroad and their Arab peers in addition to world financial investment establishments.

He added that the Beirut Stock Exchange consists of three types of markets: the first consists of those companies that meet all the required conditions and have detailed and audited accounts for three successive years; the second consists of newly formed companies which do not have accounts audited for three successive years; and the third consists of companies that are not registered on the exchange but could offer their shares for sale through it.

He pointed out that Lebanon does not expect the stock exchange to attract funds immediately and that the exchange was closed because of the war conditions, despite the fact that shares were registered in its records, for fear of loss of transparency and the inability of the control companies to perform their roles.

He pointed out that in order to create a favorable atmosphere for reopening the exchange, agreements were concluded with the Paris Stock Exchange for equipping the Lebanese exchange with the most modern electronic systems, while at the same time the Lebanese quarters concerned amended the stock exchange internal system so as to keep abreast of new developments. Furthermore, the stock-exchange law has been amended so as to permit foreign companies to participate directly in the exchange without any need for a Lebanese intermediary and established, well-organized, and experienced auditing companies to ensure constant transparency for investors intending to purchase shares in companies already in existence or to be formed in the future.

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Al-Shar' Views Upcoming Meeting With Christopher

MM2209130595 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Sep 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Al-Shar': My Meeting With Christopher Will Determine Many of the Positions"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has said that his meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher late in September will determine many of the positions. In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT al-Shar' added that during the meeting he will discuss a number of important issues, first and foremost the peace process on the Syrian-Israeli track, which is suspended as a result of Israel's rejection of the Syrian peace terms and the land-for-peace principle and its refusal to implement Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

The Syrian minister denied that there are new U.S. proposals, saying that the U.S. Administration knows the Syrian demands.

On the Taba negotiations and the awaited signing [of an agreement] between the Palestinian and Israeli side, he said: All those talks are merely pages that are daily increasing in number. No one knows the number of these pages. They are merely a solution to a small part that gives the Palestinians no control or sovereignty over their land.

Asked about the results of the meetings of the Damascus declaration states, al-Shar' said: "Some amendments have been introduced to include further economic, political, and security cooperation and coordination. And the next Damascus meeting will endorse these amendments and hence refer the document to the Arab League — which would grant legitimacy to the inclusion of any Arab states, such as Lebanon or others, that wish to join later."

Al-Shar' stressed the possibility of an Arab summit, saying that the summit will be held and that Syria is keen to have it held, but that it will not happen in the near future. Because the atmosphere is not favorable and extensive Arab efforts must be made to eliminate the differences obstructing it.

Al-Shar' described his meeting with Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti as positive. However, he ruled out his country's participation in the Amman economic summit, stressing that Syria's participation in the Mediterranean Barcelona meeting is different from the Amman meeting, since the Barcelona summit is based on the principle of the equality of all parties to it.

Foreign Minister Denies Plans for Peres Meeting

JN2409151695 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0820 GMT 24 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Abu Dhabi, 24 Sep (WAKH) — Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has said that resuming Syrian-Israeli talks depends on Israel's response to Syrian demands.

In an interview published by the AL-ITTIHAD newspaper here today, al-Shar' said Syria has not yet set a date for the resumption of negotiations with Israel in Washington. This is because it has not received positive offers regarding the demands it made during the last round of talks and during contacts and consultations with U.S. officials over the past two months.

The Syrian foreign minister said he will meet with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher on the sidelines of the meetings of the UN General Assembly to discuss the negotiations and agree on a date for their resumption. This depends on solutions and ideas that will be reached in harmony with Syria's views.

Al-Shar' denied any Syrian intention to hold a meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres or any other Israeli official. He said his country does not think such a meeting has any use before Syrian demands are met. These demands include a just peace and the return of Syria's rights.

Al-Shar' said many meetings were held on the sidelines of the Arab League session in Cairo because the Arab countries are eager to take many steps to enhance Arab solidarity.

Papers: Taba Agreement Relinquishes Land, Identity

JN2509061895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 25 Sep 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the headline "Suspicious Agreements Do Not Achieve Peace," AL-BA'TH reviews a statement by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin after the signing of the second part of the Oslo agreement yesterday. Rabin said 70 percent of the West Bank will remain under Israeli control and that Jerusalem will remain Israel's undivided and eternal capital. The Palestinian Authority [PA] has officially pledged to revoke all clauses in the Palestinian National Charter that are negative toward Israel.

Rabin's statement means that what happened in Taba yesterday is in Israel's interest. The second part of the Oslo agreement complements the first. Thus, the

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Palestinian people received nothing they were promised. In fact, we can say they have almost lost everything, especially since their national unity, which was a reality before the Oslo agreement, no longer exists. This is the greatest loss.

AL-BA'TH adds: A first reading of the second part of the Oslo agreement shows that Israel considers the PA in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to be subservient, especially since the self-rule authority has nothing to do with issues pertaining to security and foreign policy. The unreasonable concessions the PA made to Israel have encouraged Rabin not to deal with the international resolutions, which stipulate full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. This is a basic condition for the establishment of a real and firm peace in the region.

The paper concludes: What has happened — and will probably happen again — is not peace. It is impossible for this to achieve the desired peace. A real peace is one that is achieved in accordance with the Madrid formula, the resolutions of international legitimacy, and the land-for-peace principle.

Under the headline "The Agreement of Relinquishment," TISHRIN notes the signing of the second stage of the self-rule plan in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, known as the Taba agreement. The agreement was signed while the Israeli occupation forces were engaged in terrorist and suppressive actions in Ramallah, Nabulus, and Hebron. They were opening fire on Palestinian citizens, closing streets, and setting up roadblocks and checkpoints.

TISHRIN says the Taba agreement was reached amid a serious atmosphere of tension and rage in the West Bank. The agreement will thus complicate the situation in the West Bank and pave the way for more terrorist and suppressive actions against the Palestinian Arab people. This is because the agreement maintains the settlements and the seeds and manifestations of Israeli terrorism.

The paper says the sons of Hebron were aware of the serious and unacceptable concessions the Palestinian negotiators made in Taba. Therefore, they strongly objected to signing the agreement, which relinquishes land and identity. This is especially so since 400 Israeli settlers will stay in the city of Hebron. The occupation army will protect those settlers. In addition, the Israeli army will continue to control the holy Ibrahimi Mosque. The Taba agreement has forsaken thousands of Palestinian prisoners and left the issue of their release to the mercy of Israeli terrorism and according to Israeli conditions and whims.

TISHRIN concludes: The Taba agreement places the Palestinian people in the West Bank in the detention camp of the self-rule. It also turns the Palestinian land into isolated cantons. Israel will have control over the security of roads, crossing points, and bridges because the occupation will remain in all its forms, especially since the Taba agreement did not refer to withdrawal. It talks about redeployment of Israeli army forces. Above and beyond all of this, the Taba agreement separates Jerusalem. Rabin reasserted that Jerusalem will remain Israel's undivided capital. As a result of this agreement of relinquishment, the situation in the occupied Arab territories is likely to see more upheavals while a just and comprehensive peace takes a back seat.

Damascus Radio on Palestinian-Israeli Talks

JN2409155395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1137 GMT 24 Sep 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Reports say that the Palestinian self-rule authority, headed by Yasir 'Arafat, and Israel's Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres are close to reaching an agreement. Reports also say that points of disagreement were reduced and points of agreement were increased. Not more than nine points of disagreement remain, which can fill thousands of pages. These will add to the thousands of pages that the agreement has already been made up of since its early days.

Any seasoned observer of the negotiations knows that experience indicates that the nine points will eventually disappear and that the two sides will sign the agreements at the end of this week. However, these agreements will of course not be in the interest of the Palestinian side. Whoever submitted to this large amount of pressure, restrictions, and even insults cannot adopt any other behavior. Indeed, he is the one most unable to perform anything other than what is being dictated by everything that has led to such a situation and stand. We do not want to get into the details, whose substantial issues were disregarded by the negotiators inasmuch as we want to note that procrastination over the Hebron issue and bypassing it will undoubtedly lead to the total cancellation of the Jerusalem issue. This means torpedoing the issue of the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the entire Palestinian cause, by those who claim to be its sons. What, then, is the situation with those who have supported and helped the sons of this cause based on its fundamental concept?

The agreement may be completed today, and its hard-to-count pages may be done with the more important issue and with the struggles and blood of thousands of

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noble Palestinians who died for the sake of achieving right and establishing a just peace. The parties to this agreement will go to the venue of the ceremony where they will celebrate the relinquishment of whatever is left of the land and dignity. What agreement is this one that will be celebrated by the masses of Hebron and the rest of the West Bank cities through public demonstrations to the beat of weapons of the occupation forces as they repress the innocent people who are only armed with stones? What wedding will be held under the wailing of the women as they bid farewell to martyrs day after day? How can such an agreement or writ be destined to last a lifetime as long as the land is still occupied and the rights are continuously being usurped? Did the negotiators, through what they call an accomplishment, contribute to a just and comprehensive peace in the region, or is the opposite true? You are responsible for what you have done. This is what the Arab proverb says. Every proverb used by the peoples has its significance throughout history.

This is a link in a chain whose epics have been exposed for a long time. Therefore, what they accomplished is not strange or a surprise to anyone. We are not exaggerating when we say that as downfalls continue, there can be no salvation except by returning to the foundations of peace. Syria's stand on peace represents a true interpretation of peace and of the international community's will to achieve it — a just peace that restores the territories and rights and provides security and dignity for all.

Papers Comment on Settler Actions, Taba Talks

JN2409141995 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 24 Sep 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Commenting on the provocations committed by settlers in the Golan, TISHRIN says: All Israelis, including their leaders, know well that the Golan has been Syrian territory since time immemorial. Those people are also aware that peace in the Middle East is impossible without Syria. Peace with Syria is impossible without the return of the Golan.

TISHRIN adds: The practices of the settlers, their provocations, and the assistance to and encouragement of them are all part of Israel's attempts to evade a just and comprehensive peace in the region and undermine international efforts to achieve a permanent and firm solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. Israel is extending support to the settlers. It is also pursuing a policy of maneuvering and procrastination. Israel cites the pretext that it is coming under domestic pressure. All these games do not fool Syria or anyone else. The settlers are reserve forces implementing Israeli army schemes. They have been assigned the task of expansion and changing the topographic features of Arab land.

TISHRIN asserts that the provocations and criminal actions of the settlers cannot erase the facts of history and geography. The Golan is Syrian territory, and shall remain forever Syrian territory and an indivisible part of the Arab nation.

The paper concludes that there shall be no relinquishing of even one grain of Golan soil, or any of the rights of its citizens. There can be no peace without the withdrawal of the occupation to the 4 June 1967 lines, the dismantling of settlements, and the evacuation of settlers. Syria has a firm and well known stand on this.

Under the headline "The Self-Rule and the Racist Ghettos," AL-BA'TH says: The Oslo agreement has disregarded the rights of Palestinian citizens, ignored the land and people together, and turned the self-rule police into another body that helps the Israeli agencies that suppress any Palestinian national action.

The paper goes on: The Taba negotiations gave Israel what its leaders never dreamed of. Palestine has been forgotten. As for the self-rule areas, they have become real ghettos similar to the ghettos set up by the racists for the black natives of South Africa.

The paper says the Taba negotiations produced only Israeli conditions and demands, and did not offer the people of Palestine any glimmer of hope regarding their return and self-determination. The Oslo negotiators have willfully responded to Israel's demands. As long as the Israeli army is besieging the cities from all sides and will take care of the protection of the settlements and control villages in the same occupation manner that is in existence, then it will not prevent settlements from expanding and settlers from going further in committing crimes, such as the crimes of the al-Aqsa and Ibrahimi mosques. The Israeli Army did not prevent Israel from confiscating al-Aqsa, Bethlehem, and other religious and touristic sites.

Under the headline "Useless Attempts," AL-THAWRAH says: Israel is playing for time, thinking that this may do away with the Arabs' fair demands and rights. These demands include the restoration of the land of the Golan, southern Lebanon, and the rest of the occupied Arab territories. Israel's bet on time is a losing one.

The paper asserts that Syria will not accept anything that falls short of all its rights and is not willing to bargain over this issue. The paper says the peace that Syria wants is based on justice, comprehensiveness, full withdrawal, the implementation of the resolutions of

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international legitimacy, and equality and balance in any arrangements. There can be no peace without this.

In another commentary, AL-THAWRAH speaks about the Taba negotiations. We will not judge the Israeli-Palestinian agreement, which is being concluded in a framework of complete humiliation and in accordance with special Israeli standards. Developments will show the seriousness of what is being accepted. The Palestinian negotiating side has lost all elements of strength after it accepted a unilateral, partial and fragile agreement.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Israel follows a policy of maneuvering and deception. It breaks its promises, goes back on its commitments, and takes lightly the will of peace and international legitimacy. These acts reveal Israel's rancorous comprehensive peace.

Al-Shar' Returns Home From Arab League Meetings

JN2209175895 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1655 GMT 22 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 22 Sep (SANA)—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' returned to Damascus this afternoon after participating in the 104th session of the Arab League Council.

Al-Shar' met in Cairo yesterday evening with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Usamah al-Baz, head of the President's Office for Political Affairs and first under secretary of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry.

During the meeting, they exchanged views and had consultations on the recent developments in the region and issues of mutual interest.

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Afghanistan

Rabbani Addresses Pakistan Ties, Foreign Policy

LD2409183995 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 24 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Dear listeners, yesterday afternoon esteemed Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, received a delegation of the Kabul mosques representatives at Golkhana and addressed them. Now we draw your attention to the speech:

[Begin Rabbani recording] [passage omitted] Dear brothers, ulema, representatives of mosques and prayer leaders, peace be upon you. It is with great pleasure that I meet you representatives of the people and of the mosques. [passage omitted] The people of Pakistan are our brothers and we appreciate their hospitality we received during our stay in Pakistan as refugees. We also mention with gratitude those politicians and parties which supported us during a critical period of our country's history. But now the foreign policy of Pakistan is in the hands of a group of people who are not only standing against our country, but also they act against the wishes of the Pakistani nation, which never wants to be hostile to the Afghan nation, considered by them a fraternal nation.

Behind those people are the enemies of Islam to create a gap among the muslims and to separate the Islamic ummah from one another. All their efforts will fail. The people who have emerged as Taleban are not religious students nor do they belong to a certain nationality or tribe. They neither represent Islam nor any nationality, but they are a part of a very dangerous and dirty conspiracy. They are out to be hostile to all Afghan nationalities and to the independence of Afghanistan. They start fighting in the places where reconstruction work has just started, schools have opened and calls for prayers are sent out from the mosques. You know that they have banned prayer calls in many mosques. They resort to genocide, the genocide of not a specific nationality but of different tribes. They have slaughtered hundreds of our Kandahari brothers and dumped their bodies in deserts where they were photographed by reporters. Now our people should commit themselves to any sacrifice to prevent this conspiracy. And you should explain to our people their aims and goals. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Rabbani Says Taleban Acts Against Independence

LD2309194495 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 23 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, met this afternoon with representatives of Kabul city's mosques council at the presidency's Golkhana Palace.

Bakhtar reports that at the beginning of this meeting Hojjat ol-Eslam Sayd Qasim, head of this council and esteemed 'Ayn 'Ali Wafa, spoke about the work and activities of this council. They denounced the interference in the internal affairs of our country by the intelligence service of Pakistan. [passage omitted]

Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani than spoke and said: I am delighted to meet you — the representatives of the most sacred places of Muslims' communal mosques and places of worship.

In expressing appreciation for the work and activities of this council, our president added: The enemies of Islamic wherever they were, in any shape or form, tried to make our people struggle and put them in an unstable situation so that they could not enjoy the gains of their victories or register their honors in history. The conspiracy which has recently been launched has a different character. The aggressors' faces are being revealed. God willing, this conspiracy will end up in failure, the same as other previous conspiracies. Although we express appreciation for the Pakistani people's hospitality during the years of jihad, there are now people in Pakistan, in charge of that country's politics, who not only act against the will of our people but also behave against the will of the Muslim people of Pakistan.

The people who emerged by the name of Taleb [religious student] — they are not Taleban and do not belong to any nationality. They act against the independence and national sovereignty of Afghanistan. It is now the duty of our people to hold each others hands and to defend their independence and national sovereignty.

The esteemed president then issued instructions to the relevant officials on finding a solution to the difficulties facing this [mosques'] council.

Taleban Postpones Ultimatum on Rabbani 'Surrender'

BK2409114895 Hong Kong AFP in English 1121 GMT 24 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Maydan Shahr, Afghanistan, Sept 24 (AFP) — The Taleban Islamic movement have postponed a threatened attack against Kabul at the request of fearful civilians a movement spokesman in Maydan Shahr said Sunday [24 September].

The ultimatum for the government of President Borhanoddin Rabbani to surrender was to expire at midnight between Sunday and Monday.

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"Since some locals from Kabul have asked for time to remove themselves to safety we have postponed our military program," Mullah Abuol Qayyum told AFP.

Qayyum, better known as Mullah Mishr, had issued the ultimatum Wednesday to Rabbani and his topgun, former defence minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, to surrender or face an attack Kabul in five days.

Mullah Mishr is the military commander of the Taleban forces on the western frontlines near the provincial capital Maydan Shahr, located some 40 kilometres (about 25 miles) from Kabul.

Mullah Mishr said that while Taleban preparation for the attack on the Afghan capital is now complete it was "not good to specify a deadline" because civilians would unnecessarily panic.

He repeated an earlier statement that as the fighting would be concentrated against pro-Rabbani troops on the distant frontlines defending Kabul, there should be little danger to civilians.

The nearest Pro-Rabbani defense lines are located some 12 kilometres (seven miles) west of the city, close to some small villages but well away from major suburban areas.

"When their frontline is broken they will leave the city," remarked Mullah Mishr confidently.

Although the Taleban have declared they are ready for an attack on Kabul, there is little obvious sign of this at Maydan Shahr.

Mullah Mishr has noted that Taleban heavy weapons such as multi- barrel rocket launchers are hidden away in the surrounding hills, and only mortars and mobile anti-aircraft cannons are visible on the frontlines.

By contrast, the pro-Rabbani frontline, which is separated from the Taleban by a no-man's land some 4-5 kilometres (three miles) wide, is well-fortified with many Russian-made battle-tanks, 122mm howitzers and truck-mounted 12- and 40-barrel rocket launchers.

Mine fields have been laid by both sides in the no-man's land. Anti-personnel mines can be easily seen in front of the pro-Rabbani first line bunkers, together with their first victims - two dead camels.

The main national highway which runs between the two rival faction frontlines appears busy with trucks carrying commercial goods to and from Kabul, with routine exchange of sporadic shelling.

So far no trucks or civilian cars have been hit by stray shell- fire, but frequent explosions can be unnerving to travellers.

The Taleban have banned petrol and diesel from entering Kabul but foodstuffs have free passage.

In Maydan Shahr petrol sells at about half the price of that in besieged Kabul.

Government Forces Capture Ghowr, Advance to Herat

LD2209180295 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the recapture of Ghowr Province, the forces of the Islamic army are advancing toward Herat city.

A source of the Ministry of Defense reports to Bakhtar that during the mopping-up operation in Ghowr Province, the entire ammunition belonging to Taleban consisting of one ZK-1, two motor- vehicles and 100 Kalashnikovs, were seized by the forces of the Islamic army. The militia, attached to the military intelligence of Pakistan, who had fled from Ghowr Province, were disarmed in Obe district [east of Herat city], Herat Province. The operation by the mojahedin and the Islamic army has been broadened in the direction of Obe and Chesht-e Sharif [east of Obe district].

Commander Mowlawi Salim Khalili, commander 'Abdol Salam Khan, commander Lal Bahadur Ferotan, commander Ahmad Khan, commander Gol Ahmad Ghafuri, commander Fazl Ahmad, and Mola Nematollah, took part in this operation.

At a grand meeting held in Chaghcharan, capital of Ghowr Province, the participants condemned the treacherous action by the Pakistani aggressive militarists. Esteemed Mohammad Shah Majidi, general accountant of Ghowrat and Mowlawi Mohsen Khalili, chairman of the Ulema council in Ghowr Province, spoke at this meeting. They expressed their support for the Islamic State. On behalf of the people they said that Herat city will soon be cleared of the agents attached to the militarists of Pakistan.

Taleban Denies Loss of Ghowr

LD2309221195 Tehran IRNA in English 2157 GMT 23 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Sept. 23, IRNA — A Taleban spokesman denied the fall of Ghowr Province in central Afghanistan to government forces and said that the Ghowr was still in control of the militia. Afghan government officials a few days before had announced that the Ghowr was recaptured by the government forces from Taleban.

Maulavi Muslim Yar, spokesman of Taleban talking to IRNA in Peshawar on Saturday [23 September],

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however, admitted that government forces took over "only a few areas" of the province and those were also being taken back by Taleban militants. He also said that Taleban were presently preparing to attack and take control of the Bamian Province, east of Ghowr. The Bamian Province is about 100 kms west of Kabul and has an important strategic position. It is under control of the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Unity Party], one of whose leaders Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Abdol 'Ali Mazari was captured and killed by the Taleban earlier this year. Mazari's murder shocked public opinion, in view of his impeccable record as a mujahideen leader against the Soviet and communist occupation forces.

The Taleban group claims to have taken control of 13 provinces of Afghanistan. It warned the Rabbani government Wednesday to step down of power with five days. This ultimatum is to end on Sunday.

Taleban Attack Said Repulsed Southwest of Kabul

BK2309122295 Hong Kong AFP in English 1204 GMT 23 Sep 95

[Report by Terence White]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KABUL, Sept 23 (AFP) — The Taleban Islamic movement launched night attacks against troops loyal to Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani based southwest of Kabul but were repulsed with no territorial gain, an official spokesman said Saturday [23 September].

"The Taleban attacked twice late Friday night, the second time with 150 men, but were pushed back, leaving two dead bodies in the field," defence ministry spokesman Abdullah (eds: one word) told reporters.

Pro-Rabbani troops were attacked on mountain-tops near the village of Depak, which is located just 7-8 kilometres (five miles) east of the Taleban-controlled provincial centre of Maydan Shahr, Abdullah said.

There are two main frontlines between the Taleban and pro-Rabbani defenders around Kabul, the most important of which is near Maydan Shahr, some 40 kilometres (about 25 miles) west of the Afghan capital.

Depak is important because it controls access to the picturesque but strategic Lalandar valley, which cuts through rugged mountains to open out near Darulaman Palace in south Kabul.

"The purpose of last night's attack would have been to secure an area from which to stage further actions against Kabul," Abdullah told AFP.

Mullah Abdul Qayum, alias Mullah Mishr, the Taleban military commander of Maydan Shahr, has pledged to capture Kabul by force if Rabbani and his topgun, former defence minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, do not surrender.

Observers say the Taleban may figure it would be easier to capture Kabul via Lalandar rather than making a frontal assault up the main national highway from Maydan Shahr, where they face not only minefields but pro-Rabbani defenders in well-fortified positions backed by artillery and tanks.

Abdullah said the Taleban on Friday made use of a tactic called "shabkhun" — literally "night-blood" — a kind of night ambush without artillery backing in which the attackers crawl on their stomach to within striking distance of the enemy.

Meanwhile, in fresh fighting in northern Afghanistan, Abdullah said mojahedin loyal to Mas'ud had captured some more territory from their Uzbek rival, ex-communist General Abdol Rashid Dostam around Sangcharak district of Jawzjan province.

He said in one or two days he expected two previously separate mojahedin fronts in Jawzjan and Balkh provinces to be able to link their forces.

"This is a serious threat to Dostam," stated Abdullah.

On the reported new alliance between Mas'ud and Dostam, Abdullah said there were contacts with the aim of stopping fighting in the north but as yet there was no positive result.

He said pro-Rabbani mojahedin still controlled Chakhcharan, the capital of Ghor province, after re-capturing it from the Taleban last week.

Abdullah said the Taleban posed no military threat to the eastern provincial capital Jalalabad, whose shoora or ruling council was — despite rumours to the contrary — still "on side with Kabul".

He said the crew of an Ariana Afghan Airlines cargo jet hijacked by the Taleban Thursday and forced to land at Qandahar airport, had been released Saturday. He gave no details.

India

Mukherjee, Official View U.S. Ties With Pakistan

BK2409160095 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1430 GMT 24 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India has asked Pakistan to resume the stalled bilateral dialogue between the two countries instead of trying to start an arms race in the subcontinent. In an interview to Doordarshan correspondent, Rudranath Sanyal, the external affairs minister,

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Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, said Pakistan should accept India's offer for talks because Pakistan knows that it cannot take on India under any circumstances. He said India will have no option but to divert more resources to the defense sector in case the proposed U.S. arms package to Pakistan comes through. Our correspondent has more details in this report.

[Begin recording] [Sanyal] In the United States, the Senate's move to grant a $370 million arms package to Pakistan has not been supported by all American Congressmen. It is not yet clear if the U.S. Congress will finally endorse the move. In India, the government has made it clear that it will not hesitate to divert more resources to the defense sector if the U.S. starts transferring arms to Pakistan.

[Mukherjee] Frankly speaking, we wanted to deploy our resources to the maximum extent possible for development. But, when Pakistan is getting arms from U.S.A., we shall have to equip ourselves so that we can meet the threat percept. Pakistan should resume dialogue instead of moving all over the world in an attempt to make Kashmir an international issue or to (?beat) India with any stick whichever is available, or diverting their resources for procuring arms. They should come to the negotiating table, resume discussions. We are free to open dialogue.

[Sanyal] Now, what do you think about India's relations with America in the days ahead?

[Mukherjee] Whatever has been decided in Senate, U.S. Senate, as a result of the amendment to Pressler Amendment, which will enable the administration to arm Pakistan, has created an adverse impact in Indian public opinion. But, I do not visualize a situation, which is going to affect our long-term relations.

[Sanyal] Defense analysts, on their part, have no doubts that any arms package to Pakistan will spark off an arms race in the subcontinent.

[Major General D. Bandopadhyay from the Institute of Defense Studies] This arms package provides three principle military capabilities to Pakistan. One is the P-3C Orion maritime surveillance cum striker aircraft along with the Harpoon missiles, second is the modification kit to the Cobra helicopters to enable the helicopter to use the [word indistinct] anti-tank missiles by night. The third is certain quantities of spare parts — engine spare parts — for the Pakistani Air Force. This will require a response from India to develop certain capabilities to counter Pakistani capability.

[Sanyal] Is India capable of doing that?

[Bandopadhyay] India is definitely capable of doing it.

[Sanyal] It seems, in the long run, neither the U.S. nor Pakistan will stand to gain, if American weapons are transferred to Pakistan. Rudranath Sanyal, Doordarshan News, New Delhi. [end recording]

Mukherjee Regrets U.S. Move on Arms to Pakistan

BK2409091395 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 24 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The external affairs minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, has said that he will convey New Delhi's regret over the U.S. proposed move to transfer $370 million worth of military equipment to Pakistan during his talks with American officials. Mr. Mukherjee is to visit New York as head of the Indian delegation to the UN General Assembly's 50th session.

In an interview to the PTI, while describing the U.S. move as unfortunate, Mr. Mukherjee said that it will force India to divert its scarce resources for purchasing arms. The minister hoped that the proposed arms transfer will not have any adverse effect on Indo-American ties.

Mr. Mukherjee again asked Pakistan to resume the stalled bilateral dialogue with India instead of unleashing an arms race in the subcontinent. He expressed India's readiness for talks and hoped that good sense will prevail on Islamabad for resuming dialogue with India.

Replying to a question on the UN secretary general's offer to mediate on the Kashmir issue, Mr. Mukherjee said the issue is purely bilateral and there is no scope for third party mediation. The external affairs minister during his stay in New York will meet his counterparts from 60 countries. Apart from bilateral issues, Mr. Mukherjee will be discussing the reforms of the United Nations and seek their support for a permanent seat for India in the Security Council.

Party Head Sees U.S. Move 'Abetting Terrorism'

BK2409090995 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 24 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Janata Party president, Dr. Subramaniam Swamy, has said the U.S. Senate's decision to allow military equipment to Pakistan amounts to abetting terrorism. Talking to newsmen in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, Dr. Swamy said Pakistan exported nothing but narcotics and terrorism, and the U.S. Senate's decision legitimizes the activities of Islamabad.

The Samajwadi Party has also criticized the United States' decision to supply arms to Pakistan in violation of the Pressler Amendment. The party general secretary, Mr. Ragu Thakur, in a statement said the Washington's decision will increase tension in the Indian subcontinent.

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BJP Calls For Response to U.S. Arms to Pakistan

BK2309103595 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 23 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The director of the Institute for Defense Studies and Analysis, Mr. Jasjit Singh, says the $370 million arms package cleared by the U.S. Senate will give a qualitative edge to Pakistan's defense forces.

Giving details, he said in New Delhi that the package includes self-propelled 155 millimeter guns, electronic warfare equipment for F-16s, and artillery finding radars. Mr. Jasjit Singh emphasized that India will have to go in for a massive upgradation of its equipment to counter the threat from Pakistan.

The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has criticized the U.S. Senate vote to provide military aid to Pakistan. The party says the U.S. move will endanger India's security. The party has also urged the government to make its response clear in the wake of the U.S. decision.

Police Disperse Protesters Near U.S. Embassy

BK2509070395 Hong Kong AFP in English 0654 GMT 25 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, Sept 25 (AFP) — Police used water cannons to break up a protest near the US embassy here Monday [25 September] against a resumption of sales of US military hardware to India's arch rival Pakistan, witnesses said.

About 300 people chanting anti-American and anti-Pakistani slogans were doused with water cannons after they broke through steel barricades and tried to storm the US embassy, they said.

"USA down, down," the demonstraters shouted. The protest was organized by the National Students Union of India (NSUI), which claimed US defense sales to Pakistan would upset the military balance in South Asia.

"Such mindless US acts shall further aggravate tensions and suspicions and worsen the already existing situation in the region," the NSUI said.

The Indian government has also condemned the US Senate's vote last week to allow restricted supply of military hardware to Pakistan.

Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee described the US Senate's decision as "unfortunate" and said it could lead to an "unintended and undesirable arms race."

The Senate voted to allow Pakistan to receive 370 million dollars worth of military equipment in a one-time waiver of a 1985 amendment freezing military aid to Islamabad if it did not put a verifiable cap on its nuclear program.

The resolution was sponsored by Senator Hank Brown who said it was unfair that Islamabad had paid 1.4 billion dollars for military equipment in 1989 but had been prevented from receiving the shipment due to the sanctions.

India and Pakistan have fought three wars since the subcontinent's independence from Britain in 1947.

Two of the wars were over the disputed Himalayan territory of Kashmir, while the third led to the division of Pakistan and the creation of Bangladesh.

Western countries have voiced fears that the Kashmir conflict could trigger a nuclear war between Pakistan and India, which tested a nuclear device in 1974.

Daily Assails U.S. for Lack of 'Even-Handedness'

BK2509032695 Delhi THE PIONEER in English 23 Sep 95 p 8

[Editorial: "An American Pose"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] All pretence of even-handedness in American approach to South Asia has been given up with the Clinton Administration carefully lobbying for the Senate approval of the Brown amendment, which would enable Washington to transfer arms worth as much as $370 million to Pakistan. That the Senate chose to vote in broad favour of the amendment is a fair indication that American policy-makers are favourably inclined towards Pakistan despite its dubious record on several issues which America prefers to ignore. Senators have been carefully briefed by senior Clinton Administration officials that the release of military equipment such as the three P-3 Orion maritime patrol aircraft and 18 of C-NITE [as published] modification kits, would not in any significant manner alter the balance of arms in Pakistan's favour. This argument will not have many takers in India. The transfer of P-3s, in the words of the US Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defence, Mr Bruce Riedel, would give Pakistan a strategic edge for these aircraft "in addition to providing a long-range naval reconnaissance and anti-submarine capability, have the ability to launch Harpoon anti-ship missiles—of which there are 28 in the package of items to be released". The C-NITE kits "when installed would enable the Pakistan Army's Cobra helicopters to fire their TOW [Tube-launched, Optically-tracked, Wire-guided] anti-tank guided missiles at night".

The amendment, when it becomes law—and there is no serious reason why it will not in due course as the bi-partisan support for the Brown amendment indicates—is certain to fuel an arms race in the subcontinent, an

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eventuality the US self-avowedly wish to avoid. Mr Reidel himself was the first one to acknowledge this fact, though not overtly. In his carefully worded testimony to the Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee on Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs on September 14, he said the US had come to a conclusion that "while India enjoys an advantage over Pakistan in conventional military capability, it was not an advantage that would ensure a decisive victory". If this were indeed the case, then America in the light of its own assessments is going out of its way to ensure that an arms race is fuelled in the region. The American argument that more than an issue of military capability, this embargoed equipment has become an issue of perceived "fairness" in Pakistan, shows that there is not even a pretence being made to come up with an ingenious excuse through which to deepen ties with a country which is a hotbed of fundamentalism and an exporter of terrorism. The Brown amendment will give Ms Benazir Bhutto a fresh platform from which to raise her war cries.

Maharashtra Said Ready To Renegotiate Enron Project

BK2309160095 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 23 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Maharashtra Government is ready to renegotiate Dabhol power project with U.S.-based Enron Power Corporation. This was stated by the chief minister, Mr. Manohar Joshi, while talking to newspersons in Panaji today. He said his government is keeping its doors open for negotiations in view of fresh proposals received from Enron, but there will be no compromise on four issues involving capital expansion, rate of power supply, pollution and environment, he added.

Official on Efforts To Contact Kashmir Abductors

BK2209132495 Hong Kong AFP in English 1257 GMT 22 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SRINAGAR, India, Sept 22 (AFP)—A Kashmir government official began efforts on Friday [22 September] to reestablish contact with Muslim separatist guerrillas holding four Western tourists hostage for nearly three months.

Rajinder Tickoo, a police officer, was trying to restore direct or indirect communications with the Al-Faran separatist group which seized two Britons, an American and a German in early July, officials said.

"He's trying his best," an official said in this Kashmir summer capital.

Tickoo, who returned here Friday from the Kashmir winter capital Jammu, had been talking to Al-Faran representatives on radio sets until two weeks ago.

Since then, the Kashmir authorities have been in touch with the kidnappers through intermediaries.

A Kashmir government spokesman admitted that the last contact with Al-Faran had been on Tuesday evening but said this was not worrying the administration.

"While we are concerned about the safety of the hostages, we have had similar gaps in communications in the past," spokesman K.B. Jindial told reporters here.

Al-Faran, a previously unknown group, seized Britons Paul Wells, 23, and Keith Mangan, 33, and American Don Hutchings, 42, near the Kashmir trekking resort of Pahalgam on July 4.

Norwegian Hans-Christian Ostro, 27, and German Dirk Hasert, 26, were seized in the same area four days later.

Ostro's body was found on August 13. He had been beheaded and a note from the kidnappers warned that the other hostages would meet the same fate if the Indian authorities failed to release 15 Muslim militants from prison.

Government spokesman Jindial said "efforts continue to secure the safe release of the hostatges. "We hope to resume contact in a day or two," he said.

The spokesman also reiterated an appeal to Al-Faran to immediately free the Westerners unharmed. "Al-Faran should respect the sentiments of the people of Kashmir and the international community," he said.

Police said meanwhile that one Muslim militant had been killed here on Friday in a gunbattle in a residential district between guerrillas and Indian troops conducting a search operation.

The Muslim separatist campaign in Kashmir, India's only Muslim- majority state, has left more than 12,000 people dead since 1989.

Radio on Kashmir 'Infiltration Bid,' Hostages

BK2209161195 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 22 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Kashmir Valley, the Army foiled a major infiltration bid in Kupwara sector today. Three foreign mercenaries were killed and another was arrested in an encounter near village Lassiyal. The arrested foreign mercenary during interrogation revealed that the group was a part of the three groups of mercenaries to be inducted into Kashmir Valley for laying out mines.

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Pakistani troops resorted to unprovoked heavy mortar firing in village Kalash in the Punch sector last evening. Five civilians, including a women, were seriously injured. Our Punch correspondent says the present incident of mortar firing by Pakistani troops is the first of its kind in this area after the 1971 war. Earlier, they were indulging in small arms firing frequently.

In another development, the banned Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front [JKLF] has removed Amanullah Khan from its chairmanship. An announcement by the JKLF said Mr. Yasin Malik has been appointed as the acting chairman. Amanullah Khan is presently based in Rawalpindi, Pakistan.

Meanwhile, the four abducted foreign tourists are reported to be safe. An official spokesman said in Srinagar today that the government is trying to persuade the militants to release the hostages without any harm.

Finance Minister Says Economy 'Improving Steadily'

BK2409160995 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 24 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The finance minister said the Indian economy has become strong and is improving steadily as a result of liberalization. Speaking to reporters in Bombay today, Dr. Manmohan Singh noted that there has been a substantial rise in the industrial and agricultural production in the country. Referring to the dollar-rupee conversion ratio, Dr. Singh said there is nothing to worry much as the fluctuation in the market would stabilize soon.

Giving details of government's poverty eradication measures, he said 7,700 crore rupees have been made available to provide jobs to the rural unemployed this year. The finance minister said the center has constructed 10 lakh houses for the poor and another 50 lakh dwellings would be constructed during the next five years.

Iran

Radio Views 'Arafat Agreement To Sign Taba Accord

NC2509071995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 25 Sep 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] The PLO and Zionist representatives have reached agreement on an interim accord for extending autonomy to the West Bank. It is due to be signed in Washington on Thursday [28 September].

Political experts believe 'Arafat's agreement to sign the Taba accord indicates that he has finally succumbed to Washington-Tel Aviv pressure and has endorsed the Zionist regime's continuing rule over the occupied territories. The manner of ensuring security and all the concomitant powers, the holding of elections in East Jerusalem and the West Bank, the release of the Palestinians incarcerated in Zionist regime prisons, and, ultimately, the fate of the city of al-Khalil [Hebron] are among the differences between the two sides. In the agreement reached in Taba all these issues are swathed in ambiguity. Instead of giving a clear commitment, Tel Aviv as usual has postponed commitment for a delayed implementation.

Political analysts state that the Taba agreement is being criticized for deferring every issue to the will of the Zionists. This is because the accord does not guarantee the regaining of the occupied territories, but paves the way for the Zionist regime to use it as a pretext to continue its illicit rule over the usurped territories. The Zionist forces will not withdraw from the Palestinian cities and villages, but will continue to retain responsibility for the security of the entire region and control of borders and townships.

The reaction of the Palestinian Muslims in the occupied territories—a wave of fury and hatred against the signatories of the Taba compromise—indicates that 'Arafat has moved another step away from the Palestinian people and their aspirations, which 'Arafat has ostensibly ignored in making his choices.

Officials Criticize Israel Over Plane Hijacking

LD2109225495 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1845 GMT 21 Sep 95

[Interview with Road and Transport Minister Akbar Torkan and Foreign Ministry Deputy for Legal and International Affairs Mohammad Zarif by unidentified correspondent in studio on 21 September — live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Correspondent] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Good evening to the political program viewers. As you know, last Tuesday [19 September] an aeroplane belonging to our country's airlines was hijacked and landed in one of the Zionist regime's military airports. Following unceasing efforts by the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran's government, the airliner and its passengers returned home early on Thursday morning. Regarding that issue we have here Engineer Torkan, the honorable road and transport minister, and Mr. Zarif, the Foreign Ministry deputy for legal and international affairs. [passage omitted]

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If you agree, Mr. Zarif, we will begin the discussion with this question: What essentially is the issue of hijacking airliners and the legal approach to it?

[Zarif] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Airline hijacking is one the main international problems within the issue of terrorism. It is one of the subjects which perhaps has attracted the most number of international conventions and agreements for its confrontation. That is why the method of approach to hijacking is quite specific and clear. There are a considerable number of international conventions and agreements specifically for air-travel safety. These have been drawn up and adopted by world countries. Among them there is the 1970 Hague Convention with particular relevance to the incident which we have put behind us in the past two or three days.

[Correspondent] Mr. Torkan; regarding the hijacking of the airliner in the past two days, we have witnessed the story reflected extensively in our country's media and its repercussions. But I'd like you to summarize how the incident occurred and the timing conditions of this action.

[Torkan] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. As has been reported by the media, the airliner left Tehran airport at 0928 [1358 GMT] and by 1038 it was in the Kish [island] airspace. The airliner approaches the airport for landing. The captain asks for landing permission and then descends to 3,000 feet. At that height the tower is suddenly informed that the airliner has come under armed attack. Then [contact] is broken. The captain gives scattered information to the tower as best he can. He describes his situation as an emergency. The tower asks him: Can you say how this attack has taken place? The captain says: By the steward. The tower asks for his name. The captain gives the name of the steward. Then he climbs and says that they are flying toward Dhahran. He requests permission to climb higher, as the height was insufficient. The tower informs him : You are no longer under our control and have left Iranian airspace. You must ask them for permission. The captain tries to land in Dhahran. [Saudi] Arabia does not permit him. Two Arabian military planes escort [the airliner] outside Arabian airspace and it flies toward Jordan. It goes through Jordanian airspace and near the Israeli border announces that it has fuel for only half an hour and asks Israel for landing [permission]. After a few minutes they give him permission to land in an airport called Ovda near the Jordanian border. After landing the hijacker immediately surrenders himself to the Israelis. From then onwards Israeli commandos put the airliner under siege and their control. They disembark the passengers and begin interrogating them.

[Correspondent] Mr. Torkan: We are at the moment on the threshold of the Holy Defense Week. Now the question arises as to why such an act has been perpetrated at such a time?.

[Torkan] That is clear to us. That is, the action was designed by our enemies in order to overshadow this period when we commemorate the days of Holy Defense and honor the braveries of the progenies of the Islamic ummah.

[Correspondent] Mr. Zarif; last night we saw that the hijacking incident ended anyway. But now this question comes to mind as to why the Zionist regime procrastinated to such an extent about returning the hijacked passengers and airliner?

[Zarif] According to international law, as soon as the airliner lands and as soon as the hijacker surrenders or from the time when the aircraft is no longer threatened by the terrorist hijacking it is the government in whose territory the aircraft is situated — in this case the Zionist occupier regime — which is dutybound to return the aircraft and its passengers to the country to which it belongs or allow the airliner to continue its flight to its original destination. Concerning the hijacker, they are dutybound to return him to the country where he has committed the crime.

Since that time [of the hijacking] there were several significant incidents. One, just as Engineer Torkan said, was the ease of landing of the airliner in the airports [as heard] under the occupation of the Zionist regime. From the time the airliner leaves the Islamic Republic's airspace it is virtually obvious that it is flying toward Israel. Second is the ease of surrender by the hijacker. Usually, if you follow hijacking incidents, you will see plainly this reality that after a hijacking, the hijackers have certain demands, have certain claims, and it takes time for them to surrender. Here you see that the hijacker immediately surrenders himself. That indicates perhaps a certain coordination beforehand which enforces the idea and analysis that this action has been coordinated. The moves that take place after that, the propaganda efforts by the Zionist regime after the event — against regulations — is another example. In our view from the moment the hijacker surrendered himself until the time when the airliner was permitted to fly, the aircraft and its passengers were illegally kept in Israel. Political objectives were being pursued in this.

We have information that even...[pauses]... Thank God we now witness that all the passengers of the airliner, the airliner itself and its crew have returned to the Islamic homeland and they are all safe. Now we can tell the people the information that we've had. During the hijacking, during the time when the airliner was

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in Israel, the Zionist regime, in contacts with certain international circles, had sought to delay the return of the passengers or to send them to Iran in various groups, or to return a particular group in the first instance and keep the rest in Israel. That demonstrates prior coordination and an illegal effort by the Zionist regime to exploit the incident. That is worthy of consideration and investigation in international forums.

[Correspondent] Another question is that the Americans did not condemn the incident, they even said that they would study the request of the hijacker who had asked for asylum — which is a kind of indirect support for such acts of terrorism.

[Torkan] The issue you referred to is a very important point. As a first reaction, any country would usually condemn the hijacking of an airliner with 160 passengers — the crew and passengers were altogether 175 — and many countries which abide by such principles did so. But the Americans did not condemn it. That is a point that should be stressed at [international] circles such as the ICAO to bring it to the world's attention.

The second issue is that the Americans were eager to find out the identity of the hijacker or hijackers so that they could study the issue of granting them political asylum. This is an open declaration of support for hijacking of airliners. If some countries adopt such a stance and support such incidents then it cannot be said how air security can be guaranteed. When a country such as the United States, which advocates [fight against terrorism], resorts to such an act in support of terrorism then it cannot be clear how other countries can convince themselves to observe this.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency Mr. Zarif, what about you?

[Zarif] As His Excellency Mr. Engineer Torkan mentioned, in fact the Americans have once again placed a big question mark against their own slogans concerning the fight against terrorism. That is to say that the hijacking of an airliner is the best example of a terrorist act. In this case, an armed person fires shots inside the plane, halts the plane in midair for around four or five hours, endangers the lives of 160 persons including a significant number of women, children and even a baby. This is not a case which needs studying. Condemning such an act...[pauses]...In reply to a question about this yesterday, a spokesman for the State Department merely said that the United States was studying the case. This clear incident should have been condemned from the very beginning. In the past we have also seen similar kinds of behavior from the Americans. [passage omitted]

Such actions show the fact that the United States considers the issue of terrorism as a political tool which it uses to blame others and in fact it uses it to confront the groups and countries who might oppose U.S. views. [passage omitted]

[Torkan] We have certain information that the Israeli parliament debated the hijack issue both on Tuesday and on Wednesday, and one of the deputies proposed that Israel should keep the plane and the passengers as hostages. Another deputy suggested that the government should keep the passengers as POWs. These are some of the things that they said. On the other hand, they claimed to the international forums that they wanted to release the aircraft. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] In any case, the Zionist regime has given sanctuary to the hijacker and has in practice participated in a terrorist action. Can you elaborate?

[Zarif] on the basis of international norms, the Zionist regime should have either prosecuted the hijacker or else extradite him to Iran. We do not consider the Zionist regime fit to prosecute him, because we do not officially recognize that regime. Furthermore, the remarks made by the officials of the Zionist regime show that they were fully sympathetic to the hijacker.

For instance if you pay attention to the interview of the Israeli chief of joint staff, you see that he firmly defended the hijacker. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] We have all witnessed on the television the attitude of the passengers and their show of strength in staging communal prayers. Could you tell us about the attitude of the Zionist regime officials to the passengers?

[Torkan] The Zionists started a series of propaganda to prepare the ground for taking the plane hostage. They brought up certain issues which we have nothing to do with. For instance they said that one of their pilots had been captured by the Lebanese Hizballah while carrying out a bombing mission over some villages. They brought this up to show that they wanted to link the two issues and take a number of tourists hostage who were only going on holiday to Kish Island. They wanted to create a new wave of propaganda against us.

The Zionists tried to find some people among the passengers who would want to ask for political refugee there. They issued this lie that five of the passengers had shown an interest. Naturally, the aircraft was full of ordinary people and we had not chosen some committed revolutionaries to be on board. They were just ordinary people going to Kish for holiday. However, no matter how hard the Israelis tried, they did not succeed to convince even one single passenger to ask for political

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asylum, so that they might have a propaganda weapon against us. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] my last question is what will be done in future to extradite the hijacker?

[Zarif] As I said earlier, failure to seriously confront acts of hijacking is a threat to international peace and aviation security. The Islamic Republic of Iran will pursue this issue very seriously in all relevant international forums. Moreover, despite some claims by the Zionist regime, the reality was that a large number of innocent people were totally in the dark about their fate, and as they said in their interviews, they considered themselves captives. That is to say that they had in fact been detained while efforts were being made to keep at least some of them there. These cases are also worthy of following up. It is essential to follow up this terrorist act of the Zionist regime. Of course everyone knows about the terrorist acts of the Zionist regime; a regime which destroys a whole village just because one of the villagers has carried out an act against the Zionist entity.

A regime with such a notorious reputation carried out this act against our truly brave and courageous passengers; and this needs to be dealt with by international forums. [passage omitted]

'Radical' Paper Threatens Retaliation for Hijacking

TA2309202395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 23 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Newspapers in Tehran are again accusing Israel of hijacking the Iranian jet. One newspaper even threatens to retaliate with a suicide attack against an Israeli plane. The paper, SALAM, which reflects the views of the Iranian Government's radical wing led by Hizballah founder Ayatollah Mohtashemi, writes that Muslims worldwide are prepared to take vengeance against Israel and its aircraft for hijacking the plane. This was reported by Orli Ratz from Qol Yisra'el's Persian-language department.

Norwegian Embassy Said Suspected for Drug Smuggling

LD2409173495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1530 GMT 24 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Norwegian embassy in Tehran has turned into a center for smuggling illicit drugs into Iran. According to a reliable source in the Iranian Law Enforcement Department, the embassy of Norway in Tehran has been engaged in drug trafficking under a diplomatic veneer. The source says that, after completing the investigation into the embassy's illegal activities and deeper probing into this deplorable case, measures would be taken in coordination with the Iranian Foreign Ministry for preventing such outrages legal infractions and unethical behavior.

It is notable the Norwegian press had some time ago reported on the entry of an enormous amount of heroin into their country by a senior member of the outlawed terrorist grouplet, the MKO [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization].

The news was disclosed following the implementation of Mrs. Brundtland Gro Harlem's, plan for rationing out heroin for Norwegian addicts and an agreement with the disbanded MKO faction to import heroin for this purpose. In the deal the MKO representative failed to reach agreement with the head of Norway Social Democratic Party over the dividends of the transaction, which had formally been 65 percent for the Norwegian and 35 percent for the MKO ringleader.

It said that a prominent member of the Norwegian Social Democratic party has made public the covert deal and subsequently turned in the MKO distributor to the police.

The arrested MKO member in Norway has reportedly said that the profit from selling narcotics are basically meant for financing the grouplet terrorist operations inside Iran.

It should be noted that several world countries have already verified the terrorist nature of the MKO, and have thus barred their entry into their territories.

Cuban Envoy Meets With Larijani on U.S. Policies

LD2409142595 Tehran IRNA in English 1249 GMT 24 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept. 24, IRNA — Cuban Ambassador to Iran Enrique Trujillo Rapallo in a meeting with Deputy Chairman of Majles Foreign Policy Commission, Mohammad Javad Larijani elaborated on recent scheme of the U.S. Congress to exert pressure on Cuban foreign relations.

Referring to Washington's illogical and aggressive policies against Cuba, Larijani said that even the U.S. allies including European states and Canada, defying the U.S. hostile attitude towards Havana, have made large investments there.

He further announced the Iranian Government's and people's support for the Cuban nation and government in the face of the U.S. expansionist policy.

Larijani expressed hope that the future visit of Iran's minister of commerce Yahya ol-Eshaq to Havana would help further expand bilateral economic relations.

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Cuban Official Comments on 'Strategic' Ties

LD2009090795 Tehran IRNA in English 0829 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Madrid, Sept. 20, IRNA — Iranian Ambassador to Cuba Masud Edrissi Kermanshahi on Wednesday [20 September] reviewed with Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina Gonzalez Iran-Cuba cooperation on international scenes and their interface in the context of international organizations as well as their coordination at the forthcoming assembly of the non-aligned nations.

The Cuban foreign minister said that relations between the two countries were strategic, adding that his government was willing to promote mutual cooperation between the two counries in all areas.

He also extended an invitation to his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati to visit Havana which would be in exchange for the Cuban foreign minister's visit to Tehran.

Foreign Ministry Criticizes Arab League Statement

LD2209160195 Tehran IRNA in English 1526 GMT 22 Sep 95

Tehran, Sep 22 (IRNA) — Foreign Ministry's Spokesman Mahmud Mohammadi said here on Friday [22 September] that the Islamic Republic of Iran regretted the statement issued at the end of the meeting of foreign ministers of the League of Arab States.

He said the statement, while bowing to the Zionist regime's occupation of one of the most strategic parts of the Islamic Arab lands, stressed some minor issues and misunderstandings among Muslims.

Foreign ministers of the Arab League at the end of their meeting in Cairo on Thursday night while welcoming the trend of so-called peace with the Zionist regime, voiced their support for the stance adopted by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) concerning 'the three Iranian islands.' The statement also urged Iran to respond positively to measures taken by the UAE in this regard.

The spokesman added that the Arab League should pay special attention to the danger caused by the mass destruction armament deployed by the Zionists in the west of the Islamic Arab lands. It should also avoid a flare-up of the old differences inherited from the colonial powers to consolidate positions of Arabs and Muslims.

Mohammadi confirming the fact that the three Iranian islands are inseparable parts of Iran, said that the Islamic Republic of Iran always welcomes any peaceful talks among the Islamic states to clear up misunderstandings and constantly has been in the lead to do so.

He recalled that Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in his visit to the UAE invited his counterpart for continuation of related talks, an invitation which have so far been ignored.

Emami-Kashani on Defense Week, Hijacking, Bosnia

LD2209130095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In his Friday prayer sermons, Ayatollah Emami-Kashani, the acting Friday prayer leader of Tehran, commemorated the Holy Defense Week and paid tribute to the heroes of the eight-year imposed war.

He said the sacrifices of these heroes had led to the hoisting of Islam's banner in the world, the humiliation of the arrogant powers, and a spiritual revolution among the Muslim nations of the world.

Ayatollah Emami-Kashani also referred to the hijacking affair and said: This act by the al-Quds-occupying regime, which was perpetrated with the aim of diverting public attention from the Holy Defense Week, has disgraced that filthy regime more than ever.

He then referred to the Bosnian issue and called for greater unity among Muslims with the aim of putting an end to the Bosnian tragedy.

The preacher of today's Tehran prayer sermons, furthermore described the presence of a specialized workforce as a nation's greatest asset. He then stressed the need for proper employment of this asset, as a way to guarantee the country's independence.

Radio Reports on Second Sermon

LD2209142495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1130 GMT 22 Sep 95

[Second Friday sermon by Ayatollah Mohammad Emami-Kashani, member of the Guardian Council and Expediency Discernment Council, at Tehran University on 22 September — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] I Now want to refer to the hijack affair. This was planned by the Quds-occupying regime to coincide with the Holy Defense Week. In other words, it was just a simplistic ploy to distract people's attention from the special mood and spirit which prevails these days.

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They thought they would be able to take the passengers hostage. According to their own remarks and confessions, they had coordinated everything with the criminal who hijacked the plane. This is to say that the Quds-occupying regime was a partner in this crime because it detained the passengers and subjected them to interrogation, contrary to all international norms and conventions.

They held the belief that they could take the passengers hostage, or at least claim that a number of them had decided to remain there. However, the passengers conducted prayers right before their eyes and chanted Islamic slogans. The Islamic Republic of Iran Government, moreover, made extensive efforts and the whole affair ultimately resulted in more disgrace for them, as they were the ones who emerged as the losers.

The only thing that the Quds-occupying regime managed to gain from the whole affair was to add yet one more black page to its entirely black record book. [crowd chants: "Death to Israel" and other indistinct slogans]

Please stop [chanting] because it is getting late. The United States is constantly saying that it opposes terrorism but the spokesperson for the U.S. Department said: We are studying the fact that the person who hijacked the plane has asked for asylum and we are studying his asylum. Instead of condemning the act and instead of saying that it is an act of robbery they say they are studying the request for asylum. They give a green light. These facts reveal the single reality that truth and falsehood exist and whatever falsehood does it will be further disgraced and whatever position truth takes it will be even more manifest and great.

The other issue is regarding Bosnia-Herzegovina. The division which has been made is not in the interests of the Muslim nation. The day must come when Bosnia-Herzegovina turns towards unity, a single country. Muslims should be there and others could be there too, with just and equal rights. The current program was planned through world arrogance but the world must seek to return that country back to its unity. [passage omitted]

Radio Commentary Views Anniversary of Defense Week

LD2209191295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1530 GMT 22 Sep 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Friday September 22nd marks the first day of the week of sacred defense. Fifteen years ago this day Islamic land of Iran was subjected to the aggression of the Ba'thist army. The goal of this massive military invasion was to capture the oil resources south of Iran, to exert great economic pressure so as to defeat the fledgling Islamic revolution in Iran. What underlies this revolution and still persists is its anti-colonialist nature. Decisive pronouncement of the goals and principles of the Islamic revolution by the great leader, the late Imam Khomeyni, in pre and post-revolution period, aroused the fear of the colonialists because one of the definite principles of Islamic revolution was unceasing struggle against the presence of plundering hegemonist powers in Iran and the strategic of the Persian Gulf.

The victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran caused the colonialist governments to lose one of the stiff pillars of their colonialistic policies, that is the Pahlavi regime. To compensate for this defeat, they orchestrated various plots against Islamic revolution of Iran. Among these plots is the Nozheh coup d'etat [in northern Iran] and the event of Tabas. However, all these sabotages and conspiracies were thwarted by the vigilant people and the officials of the Islamic Republic government. These hegemonistic governments found the only solution to lie in full- scale military aggression against the Islamic revolution. Saddam Husayn, with his childish dreams, could be a suitable option for this purpose. The governments angry with the Islamic revolution did not hesitate and fully armed the Ba'thist army of Iraq, preparing it for a heavy fight with nascent Islamic revolution in Iran.

The problems and questions created in the path of the revolution by the imperialist governments and their lackeys, they emboldened Ba'thist Iraqi regime to occupy a large section of the soil of the Islamic Iran. However, Islamic revolution, with the unsparing help of the people, managed to remove the problems and singly stand against all the imperialist governments. Strong popular support for the Islamic revolution in Iran overwhelmed the war fronts and all occupied territories, occupied by the Iraqi army, were retrieved. People fought whole-heartedly and defended their Islamic land in such a way that they narrowed the scope of war for the Ba'thist occupiers in all front, fighting to the last breath. In this manner a full-scale war, waged by the arch-enemies of the Islamic revolution to destroy — it did not achieve its colonialist objectives. In fact the enemies made the Islamic government more stable and the people more interested in the system — as put the supreme leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah Khamene'i.

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Khamene'i Pardons Prisoners on Eve of Defense Week

LD2109101695 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 21 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] On the eve of the Holy Defense Week and to welcome these auspicious days, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the great leader of the Islamic Revolution, has pardoned or reduced the punishments of 136 people sentenced in the military courts throughout the country. The request to pardon or reduce the punishments of these convicted people has been made by Ayatollah Yazdi, head of the judicial branch. [passage omitted]

Rafsanjani Praises Army in Speech to Ground Forces

LD2409104095 Tehran IRNA in English 0940 GMT 24 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept. 24, IRNA — President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said Sunday [24 September] that the Iranian Army is one of the more proficicent forces in the world, given its noteworthy experiences, at the same time that it enjoys spiritual and religious morale.

In a speech delivered in the 3-day gathering of commanders of the Islamic Republic Ground Forces, the president said the sacred defense period added considerably to the experience, discipline, training, honor and devotion of the Islamic republic army.

The president added, "we do not intend to invade any country and thus, we do not allow anybody to have a covetous eye on our territories."

Lauding the discipline that reigns in the Armed Forces, Rafsanjani stated that the Islamic republic army, following the end of the imposed war, participated actively in the reconstruction plans of the country.

In consideration of existing conditions, he said that one of the country's primary needs is to have a prepared and alert Armed Forces that is familiar with current conditions, adding that fortunately, Iran is enjoying such a position.

The president noted that during the sacred defense period, Iran had many problems in meeting its basic arms requirements, but now it has fortified its defense capabilities quite well and the Islamic Republic of Iran is now stronger than before.

A comparison of present and past scenarios in our country would show that the Iranian Armed Forces, as well as other sectors, have achieved great progress and are getting stronger everyday.

He underscored that firstly political, economic and military situation should be reinforced in order that enemies could not even think of intruding into the country.

On the sidelines of the ceremony, the president had a look at 'Zolfaqar' tank, which was designed and manufactured by the engineering unit of the Islamic Republic Ground Forces within a period of three years.

Further on Rafsanjani Remarks

LD2409141895 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1300 GMT 24 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A nationwide gathering of ground force commanders of the army of the Islamic Republic of Iran opened today with a speech by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in the Army's 22 Bahman [11 February, anniversary of the revolution] Club in Tehran. [passage omitted]

Hashemi-Rafsanjani spoke of the period of sacred defense [Iran- Iraq war] as a valuable source of pride and a great arena for experience, training, and consolidation for the defense capabilities of the Armed Forces and said: In view of its religious, revolutionary, and courageous spirit, the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran is one of the strongest armies of the world today.

The president noted the effective role played by the Army in reconstruction and in making good the damage caused by the war and said: Today, all our efforts are being made toward achieving self- sufficiency and independence for the country, and a true defense capability consists of all-sided freedom from dependence and a strength that repels the threat of attacks by enemies.

The president stressed: The Islamic Republic of Iran's system is based on Islamic thinking and morality, resorts to no imposition or pressure to transfer and export the idea of the Islamic revolution, and has never had and never will have any intention to invade [any other country]; it rather makes reason and wisdom the pivot of its actions.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed the need for strengthening and equipping the Islamic Republic of Iran's Army in terms of defense capabilities and spiritual power and for the serious presence and participation of the Army's effective and hardworking forces on development projects on the country's borders.

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IRNA Reports on Military Display for Defense Week

LD2209122395 Tehran IRNA in English 1052 GMT 22 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept. 22, IRNA — Selected divisions from the Armed Forces, Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, Basij (volunteer) forces marched at the Azadi Square Friday [22 September] in front of President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, ranking government officials and top brass of the armed forces after a speech made by the president during the ceremonies marking the anniversary of the sacred defence.

Gigantic portrays of the late Imam Khomeyni and of the leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i and a statement by the latter which stated, "victory of a nation is founded upon strength and power of their resistance" decorated the Azadi monument.

The streets converging to Azadi Square which were thronged with spectators, were adorned with tri-colour flag of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Tens of journalists, photographers, film makers and reporters, both foreign and domestic, were giving full coverage to the ceremonies.

Parachuters gave the ceremony special excitement as they landed in the square. Helicopters flew over the area to shower the people with flowers making the event memorable to those present.

Hundreds of communication, engineering and installation gadgetries, 155-mm, 23-mm and 57-mm artillery units, model of 'eagle' missile as well as chieftain, T-55, T-62, M-6 and Scorpion tanks, various kinds of personnel carriers, tank transporters, mine defusing vehicles, hog batteries, target planes, missile launchers, variety of radar systems, rocket launching pads, thunderbolt planes, fighter planes and hundreds of other weaponry were displayed during the parade.

Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces, commander-in- chief of the IRGC, chief of the Joint Staff of the Army, chief of the Joint Staff of the IRGC, commanders of the naval, air and ground forces of the Army and the IRGC, commander of the law-enforcement forces and a number of military and civilian officials were present in the ceremony as well.

Families of a number of Lebanese martyrs who were present at the ceremony chanted such slogans as "God is the Greatest", "Khamene'i is the Leader" and "Revolution, Revolution, Islamic (Revolution)".

Talking to IRNA, cultural in-charge-of Lebanese martyrs' families Mohammad Marmar said the objective behind the participation of the Lebanese families in the ceremony was to observe the strength and firmness of Islam.

Military attaches from Pakistan, India, Brazil, Indonesia, Germany, Czech, Turkey, China, Russia, Sudan, Syria, Italy, Japan and Greece were present at the ceremony.

IRGC Commander on Deterrence as Military Priority

LD2509122595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Since the end of the imposed [Iran-Iraq] war, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] has undertaken nearly 1,000 development projects in the country's underprivileged and border regions, a large number of which have been completed. [passage omitted]

Announcing this information in an interview with our reporter, IRGC commander Major General Mohsen Reza'i also spoke of the achievements resulting from the sacred defense and added: The experience of eight years of imposed war has been used as the richest possible source of theoretical and practical information for the country in terms of defense and, on this basis, we have established the first advanced war course in the IRGC.

The commander of the IRGC spoke of deterrence as one of the priorities of the country's military strategy and noted: Carrying out the large-scale Ashura exercise during the summer was aimed at achieving this strategy.

Reportage on Defense Week Military Exercises

'Khaybar' Exercises Begin in Gulf

LD2209173895 Tehran IRNA in English 1720 GMT 22 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bandar-e 'Abbas, Hormozgan Province, Sept. 22, IRNA — Amphibious war games termed "Khaybar" started here today in the Persian Gulf waters, on the first day of the sacred defence week (Sept. 22-28). The public relations and propagation office of Iran's Navy announced here on Friday [22 September] that some divisions from the Iranian Army, navy of the Islamic Revolution's Guard Corps, and the Air Force are taking part in the maneuvers.

Khaybar war games will contiune for four days in the Persian Gulf waters.

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'Nasr-1' Military Exercises Begin

LD2309162995 Tehran IRNA in English
1617 GMT 23 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sari (Mazandaran), Sept. 23, IRNA — The 'Nasr-1' maneuvres were launched in the Qarahvi region around Gorgan city on Saturday [23 September], on the second day of the sacred defence week, marking the 15th anniversary of the eight-year imposed war.

Deputy commander of the 30th infantry division, Colonel Zargham Iranmehr, said the goal behind the maneuvres being held 45 kms deep inside the Golestan forest was to test the combant readiness of the infantry divisions. He said helicopters, aircraft, tanks and artillery units were taking part in the maneurves being staged on a 1,200 square-km tract of wooded land.

Iranmehr added that 5,000 armymen were involved in the military exercises. Gorgan lies 141 kms east of Sari, capital of the Caspian province of Mazandaran.

Radio Reports on 'Zafar' Exercise

LD2409221095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
2030 GMT 24 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In order to honor the holy defense week, an operational exercise, Zafar, was carried out in Sanandaj today. Our correspondent reports on the issue:

[Correspondent] The forces of the Infantry Division 28 of Kurdistan took part in an operational exercise. Displaying their combat capability, they declared their readiness to confront the possible conspiracies by the enemies of Islam.

During the exercise called Zafar and code-named Oh Hosayn, Oh Hosayn, Oh Hosayn, carried out in the public [Umumi] region, west of Sanandaj city, the participating units with the cooperation of Airborne Division of the army of the Islamic Republic of Iran and backing of the artillery and tanks' fire, attacked the positions of a hypothetical enemy. By capturing the deployment positions of the units of the hypothetical enemy, they achieved their preplanned targets.

The exercise took place in five stages. Four aircraft and helicopters of the Islamic Republic of Iran's army also participated alongside the forces of the Division 28 of Kurdistan in this exercise.

Amphibious Exercises Continue in Gulf

LD2509092695 Tehran IRNA in English
0856 GMT 25 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bandar Abbas, Hormuzgan Province, Sep 24 (IRNA) — The third day of the amphibious war games termed "Khaybar" was held in the Persian Gulf waters Sunday [24 September] with an aim to achieve high level military readiness and create coordination among the different participant forces.

According to the public relations and propagation office of the Iranian Navy, the assault units in the region watched the recognition and destruction operation of hypothetical underwater targets, movements of the personnel carrier fleets, and landing operations of the troops.

The Iranian Air Force also took part in the war games and its warplanes and helicopters supported the ground forces.

The maneuver is being carried out to mark the Sacred Defense Week (September 22-28).

Armed Forces Complete Production of Advanced Tank

LD2409102695 Tehran IRNA in English
0955 GMT 24 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept. 24, IRNA — Following a policy of 'self-reliance', the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran has succeeded in building a modern tank, an official of the ground forces announced.

Speaking to the English-language daily IRAN NEWS, published Sunday [24 September], Brigadier General Miryunos Masumzadeh said that on the order of the leader, Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the Armed Forces is heading towards self-sufficiency in fulfilling the country's defense needs.

"Recently," he stressed, "we have completed an important project for the production of an advanced tank, which has been given the name Zulfaqar."

"The designing, planning and production of this sophisticated tank were all done by our own experts in Iran," he underlined. He added that the 8-year imposed war gave the Iranian nation valuable technical experience. In the Khuzestan warfront, both sides had technologically advanced tanks and weapons at their disposal, he remarked, and continued by saying, "it was a good experience for the Islamic combatants who realized their strong and weak points."

Referring to the newly built Zulfaqar, Masumzadeh stated, "we have produced this tank according to our

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country's geographical requirements and it can be used in both dry and wet regions."

The tank, which weighs 40 tons, has a 1,000-hp engine and a 125- mm cannon. It has a maximum speed of 70 kph and can fire while on the move.

"Zulfaqar is equipped with a laser tracking system for target location as well as an infra-red device for night battles", he said and added that the tank is also built to resist armor-piercing weapons. The country is manufacturing the Zulfaqar tank in large numbers and can export them, if the government requests so, he stated.

"We are also making armored personnel carriers and the production process has reached its final phase," the official said. He stressed that experts at the Armed Forces are also busy modernizing and upgrading the existing stocks of old weapons. "We are using modern computer systems in most of our weapons and have replaced our optic devices with laser for determining distances," he reported and concluded by saying that the Iranian Armed Forces has also succeeded in designing and producing a system to identify and repel chemical, biological and atomic attacks.

Presence of U.S. Fleet Said Source of 'Tension'

LD2409162795 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 24 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In interview with a Central News Unit correspondent today, the commander of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Naval Forces announced that all naval vessels including hovercraft, frigates, and rocket launchers will be repaired and made operational by the country's experts personnel inside the country.

Referring to the role of the Naval Forces during the period of holy defense [Iran-Iraq war], Admiral 'Ali Shamkhani added that after the war, the naval forces of the army and guard [Islamic Republic Guard Corps] have been able to prevent the occurrence of tension in the region and establish security in the Persian Gulf.

He described the presence of the U.S. naval fleet in the region as a source of tension and insecurity.

Rafsanjani Addresses Cabinet on Political Power

LD2409201395 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1900 GMT 24 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] At tonight's session of the Cabinet, in his comments on elections, President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The concern that has sometimes been expressed that possibly in some cities changes might take place in the official posts under the pressure of certain people, or because of favoritism toward some people, I categorically point out here that no minister lawfully has the right to be influenced by these pressures.

If they deemed it necessary to replace someone for administrative purposes, they should do it for the reasons that relate to their responsibilities. If this [the replacement] takes place for electoral reasons and the minister concerned wants to make use of it politically, this is unlawful. This is also the opinion of the great leader of the revolution; and also my opinion is that the elections should take place without imposition of any influence. [passage omitted]

Habibi Details Rafsanjani Comments

LD2409223795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 24 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] At the end of the Cabinet session held on 24 September, Mr. Hasan Habibi, the government spokesman, referred to the important comment made by the president on elections and said that the president stated:

The concern that has sometimes been expressed that possibly in some cities changes might take place in the official posts under the pressure of certain people or because of favoratism towards some people, I categorically point out here that no one of the Messrs ministers lawfully have the right to be influenced by these pressures.

If they deemed it necessary to replace someone for the administrative purposes, they should do it for the reasons which relate to their responsibilities. If this takes place for electorial reasons and [the minister concerned] wants to make use of it politically, this is unlawful. This is also the opinion of the great leader of the revolution; and also my opinion is that the elections should take place without imposition of any influence. As there is no interest higher the interest of the credit of the system. We cannot consider the tastes of individuals. For example, this person should come to Majles, but that person should not come.

The president added: The Messrs should heed this issue and be careful and convey the matters to the officials, middle managers, and other categories. [passage omitted]

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Pakistan

Bhutto Thanks Clinton for Brown Amendment Passage

BK2209112995 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 22 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto has thanked President Bill Clinton on the passage by the U.S. Senate—by a convincing majority and with bipartisan support—the Brown amendment to the one-sided and unfair Pressler law. In a statement in Islamabad today, she said this vindicates Pakistan's principled position and goes a long way in restoring relationship between the U.S. and a democratic Pakistan, which occupies an important place in the region and the Islamic world.

The prime minister also thanked Senator Hank Brown for skillfully steering of his amendment through the Senate and removing this irritant in U.S.-Pakistan relations. The prime minister also expressed the confidence that relations between Pakistan and the United States, who have been keen to revitalize their mutually beneficial bilateral relations, will be further consolidated after yesterday's vote in the Senate, representing a major step in this direction.

Bhutto Praised for Passage of Brown Amendment

BK2509032395 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 25 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Pakistan Democratic Front [PDF] parliamentary party meeting was held in Islamabad yesterday. The meeting paid tribute to Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto for her untiring efforts to get the Brown Amendment passed by the U.S. Senate. The amendment aims at doing away with the restrictions imposed on economic aid and military supplies to Pakistan. The meeting unanimously approved a resolution in which the 81 members participating in the PDF parliamentary party meeting commended the prime minister's statesmanship and prudence, which led to Pakistan attaining this diplomatic victory.

Brown Amendment Passage Said 'Clear Vindication'

BK2309142695 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 23 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Leaders of public opinion continue to welcome the passage of the Brown amendment by U.S. Senate to ease curbs resulting from the Pressler law. Federal Ministers — Nawab Yusuf Talpur and Mr. Ahmad Mukhtar — in their statements described the amendment as a clear vindication of Pakistan's principled stand on the nuclear issue and the Kashmir dispute. They said the passage of the amendment by the U.S. Senate reflects successful foreign policy being pursued by the present government.

The spokesman, PPP [Pakistan People's Party] parliamentary group, Mr. Izhar Amrohvi, in a statement said it was a great moral and diplomatic victory for the country.

Officials Welcome U.S. Move on Pressler Amendment

BK2209034395 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0300 GMT 22 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The U.S. Senate has approved an amendment in the Pressler law allowing delivery of embargoed arms worth $368 million to Pakistan and also easing sanctions in economic and other fields.

Adopted by 55 votes against 45, the Brown Amendment is to help increase Pakistan-U.S. cooperation in economic and other fields. The amendment, sponsored by Mr. Hank Brown of the Republican Party along with two Democrats, Mr. Tom Harkin and Miss Carol Moseley- Braun, releases military equipment except 28 F-16 planes paid for by Pakistan five years ago. The Brown Amendment now authorizes President Clinton to sell the F-16 planes to a third party and return the money to Pakistan. The amendment also facilitates transfer of spares and support equipment, mainly meant for F-16 planes, which Pakistan had sent to the United States for repair or upgrade. The U.S. President has also been authorized to release the Government of Pakistan of its contractual obligation to pay for the storage cost of items purchased prior to 1 October 1990 but not delivered following invocation of the Pressler law. It opens the way for military-to-military contacts, training, and humanitarian and civic assistance projects. It provides bilateral cooperation in trade and investment, antiterrorism, antinarcotics, peacekeeping, and other multilateral operations.

The vote on the amendment is a major diplomatic breakthrough for Pakistan, which was singled out under an unprecedented country-specific American legislation to punish it for its nuclear program. The imposition of Pressler sanctions had more or less frozen Pakistan-U.S. relations for the last five years. For President Clinton, the passage of the amendment marks fulfillment of his pledge to Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto during her visit to the United States that he would work with the Congress to undo a wrong done to Pakistan.

The Pakistan ambassador to the United States, Dr. Maleha Lodhi, has in her comments in Washington

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described the passage of Brown Amendment as a victory of Pakistan's principled stand, stressing the United States to pursue an even-handed policy in South Asia.

In Islamabad, a Foreign office spokesman said approval of Brown Amendment is a vindication of Pakistan's principled position. He added that there remains a number of steps in the legislative process before the resolution actually becomes an implementable law, such as conference between the two houses. But this does not detract from the strong vindication of Pakistan's principled position.

The federal minister for information and broadcasting, Mr. Khaled Ahmad Khan Kharal, has described the passage of the amendment as a major achievement in Pakistan's foreign policy. He said the remarkable results of prime minister's visit to the United States have started materializing.

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